

When Fiction Becomes Fact – Chapter 1

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Oil companies are not overcharging motorists for gasoline, an industry group told Congress on Wednesday, but US lawmakers were skeptical that Big Oil was working hard enough to provide the fuel supplies needed to keep pump prices in check.

The oil companies are lying through their teeth and for once, Congress got something right. And, to quote Vernon, you can take that to the bank, the oil companies do. If the oil companies took some of that money and built new refineries, I'd be inclined to give them some slack. Someone claimed there was a mandate against building new refineries. Yeah, the pocketbook.

The American Petroleum Institute told lawmakers its members were not to blame for high pump costs. Oil companies earned about \$200 billion in excess profits from 2003 through 2006, according to the Consumer Federation of America. ...said oil companies were not able to coordinate their refinery maintenance and outages to make sure enough facilities were always operating because that would violate federal antitrust laws. "But I am sure that they are looking to, wherever they can, return to operations as quickly and safely as they can. I have no doubt that they will be doing that" he said.

Yep, they're opening new bank accounts...

After I finished *The Storm*, I swore to everyone but God that I would write no more stories. But, that lying sack of stuff pulled my chain. Trust me, I know, I used to be a tax auditor. I could tell you more, but to quote Maverick, I'd have to kill you. Suffice it to say when line 30 of their federal tax return is 10% of, well never mind, there I go.

It's 2007 and I've not been an auditor for 15 years. Since 9/11, I've gotten serious about preparations. So much so that I picked up a M1A Loaded and a couple of thousand rounds of South African surplus. Then, on Father's Day, I got a Mossberg 590A1. I'm not holding my breath, but come Christmas, I'm supposed to get a .45acp.

Although my name is Gary, most people call me TOM because of my handle, Tired Old Man. Beats the hell out of them calling me Charlie the Tuna. While I can't tell you who I audited, I toured a tuna canning operation 7 times on one audit alone. That plant is closed; they can their tuna in Puerto Rico and American Samoa now. The Environmentalists got them. They leaked about a cup of tuna oil into the LA harbor a day, you know. I've nothing against Environmentalists, everyone should own one.

Most of you have probably watched the history of the US petroleum industry on the History Channel. If you haven't, you should. It helps to know your enemy. Speaking of which, I'm really sorry about Jerry Falwell, but I didn't like him anyway. I liked him more than that Robertson on the 700 Club. Pat Robertson's work, NEW WORLD ORDER, is a catch all for conspiracy theories. It combines the paranoia of the Old Right with modern versions. A summary of Robertson's book is found on page 177 in which Pat says a

conspiracy has existed in the world working through Freemasonry and a secret Order of the Illuminati, a group combining Masons and Jewish Bankers. Don't get me wrong, I'm not speaking ill of the dead, he just wasn't, 'my kind of guy'. Jim Bakker and Jimmy Swaggart were far more entertaining.

*Spread the word
Through me God is heard
You're making me laugh
Tell me your killin' joke
Evangelist
You're making me laugh
Jesus saves
But only after I've been paid
You're making me laugh
Tell me your killin' joke
Evangelist
End your hoax*

*God says have a TV show
God says baby do some blow
God says taxes are a sin
God says pour the money in
Rape the poor, faith no more
Faith for cash, make me laugh
Faith no more, face the whore
Rape your past, make me laugh*

*Never, never, ever sin
Unless God says to stick it in
You're making me laugh
Tell me your killin' joke
Evangelist
The truth can choke
Defrocked from your seat
Don't chit where you eat
You're making me laugh
Tell me your killin' joke
That God talks to you
There's no hope*

*God says have a TV show
God says baby do some blow
God says taxes are a sin
God says pour the money in
Rape the poor, faith no more
Faith for cash, make me laugh*

*Faith no more, face the whore
Rape your past, make me laugh*

Make Me Laugh – Anthrax

I omitted the rest of the lyrics, they're worse. And it has nothing to do with big oil; the televangelists, don't make quite as much money as the oil companies, but they're close.

I've been a fair Christian most of my life, all things considered. There's better, without doubt. It's ok, Matthew was a tax collector. Probably wasn't as good of a tax collector as I was, but that's a whole other story. I'd make a list of the liars out there, but it would include all politicians, lawyers, reporters and televangelists and would be too long to post. They aren't all bad, there's Billy Graham, Norman Vincent Peale and some others I could name.

What I'm trying to figure out is how to mate the bayonet from the M1903 Springfield rifle to my new 590 shotgun. It will take the bayonet for the M16, but I have pocket knives with blades that long (really). 'If you have to use a bayonet, they're too close.' Right, that's why I want a longer bayonet. The bayonet on the Springfield was 16".

My all-time favorite singer died in the crash of Japan Airlines Flight 123 near Gunma on August 12, 1985 at age 43. Do you know *Ue o muite arukō* (look up while walking)? Sure you do, it went by another name in the US. Think Japanese beef fondue (Sukiyaki).

I told you the expression, The Big Lie refers to Hitler. Also to most other politicians, if you think about it.

*O man, take care!
What does the deep midnight declare?
"I was asleep
From a deep dream I woke and swear:—
The world is deep,
Deeper than day had been aware.
Deep is its woe—
Joy – deeper yet than agony:
Woe implores: Go!
But all joy wants eternity—
Wants deep, wants deep eternity."*

(Also sprach Zarathustra – Nietzsche)

"I did not have sex with that woman." Who, Hillary?

"Read my lips: no new taxes." Right, that's why we ended up with Monica.

"Out of these troubled times, our fifth objective – a New World Order – can emerge: a new era."

"This is America: the Knights of Columbus, the Grange, Hadassah, the Disabled American Veterans, the Order of Ahepa, the Business and Professional Women of America, the union hall, the Bible study group, LULAC, 'Holy Name' - a brilliant diversity spread like stars, like a thousand points of light in a broad and peaceful sky."

"Should public school teachers be required to lead our children in the pledge of allegiance? My opponent says no – and I say yes."

"Should society be allowed to impose the death penalty on those who commit crimes of extraordinary cruelty and violence? My opponent says no – but I say yes."

"And should our children have the right to say a voluntary prayer, or even observe a moment of silence in the schools? My opponent says no – but I say yes."

"And should, should free men and women have the right to own a gun to protect their home? My opponent says no – but I say yes."

"And is it right to believe in the sanctity of life and protect the lives of innocent children? My opponent says no – but I say yes."

"In foreign affairs, I'll continue our policy of peace through strength. I will move toward further cuts in the strategic and conventional arsenals of both the United States and the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc and NATO. I'll modernize and preserve our technological edge; and that includes strategic defense."

Gee, we should elect this guy President, he sure sounds good. We did, he didn't last.

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"Where have you been?"

"Hey partner, what's up?" Ron replied.

"My blood sugar, my blood pressure and my weight. How about you?"

"Same chit, different day."

"Yep, me too. Did you read that bit on MSNBC?"

"What bit?"

"They claim that air travel is damaging the atmosphere. There won't be any more, *leaving on a jet plane, don't know when I'll be back again.*"

"I don't mind tree huggers, with their hands full, they can't shoot back."

"Big talk for a short fat man. I started a new story."

"What's this one called?"

"When Fiction Becomes Fact."

"What's it about?"

"Same chit, different day."

"What do you mean by that?"

"I mostly write to tell people about how important it is to be prepared."

"Did you ever fill those 5 gas cans I bought you?"

"I have 5 gallons in the tank and 10 in cans. With the price of gas at nearly \$3.50 a gallon, it would take about \$120 to fill them."

"It could be worse, gas could be \$4 a gallon."

"Gas prices are like the weather, wait a week and they'll change."

"Yeah, go up."

"Costco had it for \$3.339 a gallon today."

"Came down?"

"It'll go back up," he laughed.

We visited for a while then Lyn had a honey do and he had to go. Anymore, it was more like the 2 Amigos, unless you counted Fleataxi as Amigo #3. Pretty hard to do with him near Elko. CFI lived in that area, too (I think).

Let me explain why we can't have a shelter: 1) we can't afford it; 2) no way to remove the soil; and 3) the Mrs. already thinks I'm crazy, I don't intent to give her any evidence. Do I want a shelter? Do the people in Hell want ice water?

Darn, I forgot to tell him that I got a 590A1 for Father's Day. He never tells me when he gets another elephant gun, so I guess we're even. For best friends, we make quite the pair, since I got sober for a few years and don't drive, I don't see so much of him. He

had many more guns than I had, but less ammo for the ones he had. He didn't think much of my M1A, claiming it was too heavy. I didn't think much of his Kel-Tec SU-16.

A few years back, about the time Lyn's mother died, Ron and Lyn had some extra money and for Ron, it was like eating peanuts. He hasn't stopped buying, but 95% of them are sporting arms, bought used. The closest he has to a military type rifle is the Kel-Tec and only because it uses M16 magazines. I wish he'd buy at least one MBR, but won't hold my breath.

I'm only going to have the M1A, 590A1, the .45 and ammo and high capacity magazines to go with them. I'd better get 10 more for my M1A before Ammoman raises his prices a third time. I doubt I'll scope the rifle, I don't like scopes. If the ladies want to get me a .22 rifle, it will be a welcome addition, but there isn't that much to hunt in this area. Still, bricks of .22 might be good trade goods, should the need arise.

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Prepared? Yeah, sort of. Ready to be prepared? Got the lists, some of the food, equipment, meds, etc. It wouldn't take much, that's for sure. Less than a grand to put up enough food, seed and fuel to cover us for anywhere from 3-6 months. Meds? I don't take anything I can't go without that I don't have plenty of. It won't be long now anyway. If we get past Christmas, we'll be good to for 6 months minimum. We'd only have to run the generator about 4 hours a day.

My thinking has narrowed down the possibilities to terrorist attack(s) and WW III in the man-made category and either an earthquake or pandemic in the natural category. We've prepared accordingly.

Terrorist attacks: Jihadists or the illegal immigrants.

WW III: What's to say?

Earthquake: Anything from some small local trembler to the big one.

Pandemic: Anything from H5N1 to SARS to something engineered.

Then there's the collapse of our economy and that could be worse than the other 4, combined. It's looking more possible every day. That could be a killer event, the price of food in Cali has risen about 25% in the past year and there are some shortages. Gasoline will go over \$4 a gallon by fall, unless something changes. We won't know until just before or when it happens. Then we'll have about 24 hours to get our house in order. I've increased my reading of various news sources to about 4 hours a day. We'll go for the basics, food, then fuel, then whatever we can get with our remaining money.

Sure would be nice to capture all the methane we'll be generating...

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There were several emails from A. Friend (Russ) that morning when I got up. They consisted of a series of threat warnings. I grabbed my lists, checked the garage and had a shopping list ready before Sharon got home from taking Audrey to school.

"What's the money situation?"

"What do you need?"

"I got some emails, I think we should go to Costco and Sam's Club and pick up a few things."

"We have about \$750 until the trust money hits; however I haven't made the house payment yet, how much do you need?"

"Here's the list, I think maybe a grand, what would you say?"

"Without the gas, a little less. With the gas, a shade over."

"We'll have to get the gas. We can start by filling the cans and your gas tank. Will it all fit in the SUV?"

"Might take 2 trips. I have to pick up Udell at 11:15 and Audrey around 3:15. We should hit Costco first and then get Junior. We can go from there to Sam's Club."

"I have something from Smart and Final, that shouldn't take long. Ready to go?"

"No, you haven't said why. I'd hate to tie up all our money in long term food."

"They arrested 3 guys with a dirty bomb in Austin, Texas. It's one of those home grown Jihadist groups. I eliminated as much as I felt safe. You'll be with me and if you see something you don't think we need, we can discuss it."

"Only 8 cartons, will that be enough?"

"I have a couple at home. If there's money left, we can get more."

It was a normal crowd at Costco, apparently not many had been following the news. I got 8 cartons and went back for 4 more. We picked up Junior, emptied the Rondo and hit Smart and Final and Sam's Club. The store was packed, I think the word was getting out. We got the macaroni, cereal and the remaining items with money to spare.

Once home we packed the meat in single meal packages and added them to the freezer. We rearranged the garage shelves to hold the remainder and I carried the gas cans to the patio.

I checked the internet news while she picked up Audrey. It took 3 news sources before I could verify the email. A person can access every online US newspaper by using *Hometown News*.

"Ron did you hear about the dirty bomb?"

"Where did that go off?"

"It didn't, they caught the guys. Check any major Texas newspaper or AP. It might be a good idea to pick up a few extra groceries. Can I borrow a gun?"

"What do you need?"

"How about a .357?"

"I'll drop one off, do you have ammo?"

"I was going to get Sharon to take me to High Desert when she gets home. BTW, I filled my gas cans."

"I'll bring you a box and you can replace it."

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Nothing happened, of course, and I started to catch hell. Then, the trust made an above average distribution, a little over \$5k. That squared things and I got her to take me back to High Desert. I ordered a 500 round case of 230 grain gold dot. Derek said he'd get the magazines and I could replay him. I added 10 more M1A magazines and called him back to tell him to hold the pistol magazines until the rifle magazines came.

Ron took me to White's and I got a pistol belt and beat up standard GI holster. The mags didn't quite fit in the surplus canvas magazine pouches. Everything arrived about mid-month and Derek sent the pistol one piece at a time. We also got 5 additional gas cans and filled them. I also picked up 10 bricks of .22 from Wal-Mart half HP and half solids.

We agreed to add 2 bundles of Charmin a month and increase our supplies of vegetables, 1 extra case each of diced tomatoes, green beans and corn every month. She could continue to get 6 cartons a month of Kool's and 6 cans of Folgers. We were just short of an argument over that; still she agreed. She found some jeans on sale and got me 3 pairs plus a set of those Wal-Mart work boots.

Considering my age, it's not unseemly that my recent stories have ended with people dying; I hate to tell you, but dying in part of living, the last part. Besides, with as many illegals living in this housing tract as there are, I may not have enough ammo. It's getting bad out there, have you noticed? More A-Rabs in California than in Arabia and

most of them own 7-11s. The non-English speaking wetbacks all work for fast food chains. How long has it been since 9/11? We're overdue.

Anyway, all that business about threat warnings was much ado over nothing, this time. We made it to almost my 65th birthday, March, 2008. There's nothing special about March, it begins to warm in the high desert, the weeds come up before the grass greens up, and I'm still spending my days reading news reports on my computer. January is usually a good month and we stock up on extra batteries, the kids have generally gone through my stash with their Christmas presents.

With some of the extra money this year, I got my new 30 quart pressure canner from Canning Pantry and we connected the stove on the patio to the gas line. On a whim, I got propane jets for all of the gas appliances, all carefully marked and in Amy's tool box. I was thinking about actually planting a garden and canning a few green beans, roma tomatoes for spaghetti sauce, maybe make some of those bread and butter pickles... man were they good. The tough part would be storing the potatoes, I figured to only plant a few hills for new potatoes and peas. I could buy a 100# pound bag of onions wholesale 3-4 miles up the road.

We emptied wall shelves in the garage and filled them with LTS food, mostly beans, rice, coffee and macaroni. Toilet paper doesn't qualify, but I'd nagged her up to 12 bundles of Ultra Charmin. If she'd seen the Kool's locked up in my supply cabinet, she'd have had a kitten. It's a piecemeal thing, this preparation business. It didn't matter, no matter how much we had, no matter what we had, we'd turn out to be short on something.

Our garden did well, we got 57 quarts of pickles, 152 quarts of green beans, 32 pints of beets, 64 pints of carrots, 133 quarts of spaghetti (tomato) sauce and a half a ton of potatoes. The 100# bag of onions I bought, plus, 300# of pinto beans, 60# of great northern beans, 40# of navy beans, 12 50# bags of jasmine rice, too many spices, 100# of sugar, 300# pounds of flour (it probably won't keep), 4 jars of yeast, 6 6# cans of Crisco, 16 gallons of vegetable oil, 6 15 count packages of Kraft macaroni and cheese, 42 cans of Spam, 72 cans of tuna, 48 cans of Kirkland roast beef, 48 cans of Kirkland chicken breast, 4 cases each of mushroom and tomato soup, 96# of elbow macaroni, 5 cases of canned corn, 1 case of asparagus, 12 cartons of oatmeal, 60 12 packs of Coke Classic, 18 bags of pancake mix, 21 double packs of Aunt Jemima syrup, one shelf each of quart jars of peaches and pears and 2 shelves of 57oz cans of Folgers, stacked 2 high. Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow...

I'd also cut up and canned beef roasts that Sharon bought on sale. With the veggies, we could make a quick beef stew. As you can tell from the list, we were actually missing a few things. Ron got me 6 25-gallon bottles of propane and I stored them on the patio under the solid cover. I bought a roll of wicks for the oil lamps. Oh, I have 4 50# bags of popcorn.

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Do you know the day the Republic died? November 4, 2008. It has been ill for a while, since about 1945. I doubt the nation was really ready for Hitler and Osama Obama. Good thing she was the President, or his days would have been numbered. I objected to her politics, not her gender. I lost the bet and had to give Ron a five spot. I hope he spent it on a box of .22 ammo.

In the speech she made to thank the voters for electing her, she said that the troops would all be home by not later than late March. A majority of Americans were tired of the war; myself included. We got there based on faulty intelligence, 95% of the troops killed had died after we'd won, and if you're going to kick ass and take names, use enough people to do it. That's my opinion. As of election day, they hadn't found Osama bin Laden. This guy is 6'4, wears a beard and wraps his head in a towel, how hard can it be? I was worried before, now I was ready to panic. There wasn't room for any more food in the garage or I'd have gone shopping, again.

A free ad: Because the West is facing a concerted effort by Islamic Jihadists, the motives and goals of whom are largely ignored by the Western media, to destroy the West and bring it forcibly into the Islamic world – and to commit violence to that end even while their overall goal remains out of reach. That effort goes under the general rubric of jihad.

Jihad (in Arabic, "struggle") is a central duty of every Muslim. Modern Muslim theologians have spoken of many things as jihads: the struggle within the soul, defending the faith from critics, supporting its growth and defense financially, even migrating to non-Muslim lands for the purpose of spreading Islam. But violent jihad is a constant of Islamic history. Many passages of the Qur'an and sayings of the Prophet Muhammad are used by jihad warriors today to justify their actions and gain new recruits. No major Muslim group has ever repudiated the doctrines of armed jihad. The theology of jihad, which denies unbelievers equality of human rights and dignity, is available today for anyone with the will and means to bring it to life.

Jihad Watch is dedicated to bringing public attention to the role that jihad theology and ideology plays in the modern world, and to correcting popular misconceptions about the role of jihad and religion in modern-day conflicts. We hope to alert people of good will to the true nature of the present global conflict. Jihadwatch dot org

Founded in 1996, the International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) is the leading academic institute for counter-terrorism in the world, facilitating international cooperation in the global struggle against terrorism. ICT is an independent think tank providing expertise in terrorism, counter-terrorism, homeland security, threat vulnerability and risk assessment, intelligence analysis and national security and defense policy. Ict dot org slash il

When Fiction Becomes Fact – Chapter 2

It was time for the fun to begin, the games playing, the threats and rhetoric to scale up a notch and to celebrate the commissioning of another Russian boomer. The Chinese were buying subs, building subs and had a bunch of those airplanes, the J-10 – their version of a Strike Eagle.

"She lied; she just took an oath to protect and defend the Constitution. She said, 'I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.'"

"That's what they all say, isn't it?"

"Yep, they all lie."

"Is the Bill of Rights part of the Constitution?"

"Not really, that's what they call the first 10 Amendments. However, because they amended it, I think it's fair to say that she swore to uphold those too."

"Including the 2nd Amendment?"

"Of course, the way she interprets it as the right of the states to maintain a National Guard."

"How are things in Flippin?"

"About the same. We have all of the repairs made and only one vacancy, but I'll have that filled in a few days from the waiting list. You said you planted a garden?"

"Yes, and we did pretty well. We limited the variety of vegetables and made pickles. Did you hear that Damon got his disability settlement with the VA?"

"Yes, he called. He said he was going to wait until he got to California to do some of the upgrades."

"I told him about that cross bed fuel tank. He's going to Chico to get one installed."

"Where's Chico?"

"North of Sacramento on 99. He can get it on the way home; I-80 runs through Sacramento. You coming back any time soon?"

"Sure like to, maybe."

"If you time it right, you be here when the fun starts."

The interesting thing about conversations I had with my boys was that they were interchangeable. I gave you a hint well into Derek's and my conversation, just so you'd know who was saying what. He sounds more like me than I did. Usually if they just call to say hi, the conversation lasted anywhere from 30 minutes to 2 hours. While he had that contact at Rock Island Arsenal, he was saving it for when a need really arose and he was temporarily on active duty. There were multiple conditions to meet before his friend would ship things to him.

Now, if the radical Islamists declared war on America and started to blow up a lot of things at once, then we might just get the things we wanted. If Hitler didn't convert all those wetbacks to Americans fast enough, thereby causing a revolt, we might qualify then, too. They want to get their territory back and by flooding the country with illegals that would eventually become legal they might just have enough of their people here to pull it off.

I reread Whetstone and found out about "Joe". "Joe", was old friend of Derek's that still worked there. Joe served in Desert Storm, retired, and took a job at Rock Island after that. He worked at the rail yards organizing loads to go out at the Army's request. Not a bad job to have, and the pay was pretty good, too.

Do you remember this:

"How many units?"

"Let's go with 6 sets, all small and ante. Plus as many sets of indirect as you can part with."

Another pause. "Anything I should know about?"

"Just a present for a tired old man."

"Chit. I'm coming, too."

"No, Joe. You stay there for now. Just tell the gang to pre-mob. I'll call you when it's time to move. I might need another few sets."

He went on to say: For starters, I asked for the small arms and ammunition, plus some man portable ordnance, for 18 days of combat at brigade strength. He sent complete combat resupply sets. That meant MREs, medical supplies, Concertina wire, pickets, batteries, and every other standard combat consumable on top of all that ammo and ordnance.

That's how it worked, provided he was in active federal status and Joe had someone to blame it on. You may recall something else from Whetstone, look for the White Rabbit,

he'll be carrying an M1A. I had to call him just to ask. Not only *Alice in Wonderland* but from other places, too. I was the White Rabbit. I don't know why, I can't even do the Bunny Hop. Sharon says it was hop, hop, hop, kick, kick.

God bless Wiki: As a variation on a conga, participants dance in a line, holding on to the hips of the person in front of them. They tap the floor two times with their right foot, then with their left foot, then they hop forwards, backwards, and finally three hops forward to finish the sequence, which continues throughout the song. The first person in the line leads the group around the floor. I'll take their word for it; I didn't date until 11th grade and then only one gal. I don't dance.

She told them before she was sworn in and the military had the ships pre-positioned and many of the containers loaded and sealed. The recall order went out about 5 minutes after she was sworn in. She gave them 60 days to have everyone and everything home.

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Just off the coast of Oaxaca, Mexico (south), in the Pacific Ocean, PEMEX discovered a new field. Initial estimates suggested as many as 200 billion barrels of light crude were available. Mexico joined OPEC before the first barrel of crude was pumped. Venezuela belongs to OPEC. Venezuela and Mexico are two peoples separated by a common language, to coin a phrase. Calderón and Chávez, an honest to goodness pair of deuces (the smallest cards in a deck). When you consider that Mexico had reached its oil peak in 2005, this was nothing, if not good news.

Although crude was only running about \$75 a barrel, the price of gas wasn't related to the price of the crude. It was based on refining capacity and demand. In January of 2009, the US was producing a lot of ethanol, mostly from corn. In 2007, Dubya pushed for alternative forms of energy, not realizing how many ethanol plants were under construction. Know where I'm going? I'd appreciate a hint...

When the US pulled out of Iraq, the civil war that we refused to admit was occurring – intensified. The only mistake we made in Iraq was not sending Seal Team 6 in to off the guy and keep the troops home. (**How prophetic!**) It would take Mexico a few years to develop their new field. Our exports of corn had fallen off because we were brewing ethanol and feeding the byproducts to livestock. The new Alaskan oilfield was beginning to produce, but we really needed a Trans-Canadian pipeline to eliminate transporting it by tanker from Valdez. The majority of tankers at Valdez were still single-hulled, but Congress had enacted legislation requiring all tankers to be double-hulled by 2015.

Considering the cost of another oil spill and the new tankers, the oil companies began to negotiate with Canada in late 2008 concerning construction of a new pipeline. Canada could get rich from small transportation fees – only Quebec was opposed. (I may be a crackpot, but I'm a well-educated crackpot. I sure hope I haven't done this version of my story before.)

On 23Mar09, I turned 66, notable only because I was off disability on full social security. Sharon signed up for her social security at age 62, drawing on her own contributions, on the advice of sister Shirley's neighbor. The gal ran a computer program and determined that Sharon wouldn't lose any money if she did it that way. Damon came, visited and left. He said he'd be back from Chico to pick up the 590 (not an A1) from Big Five before he went home. He ordered 3 cases of ammo, 1 case each of Brenneke slugs, 12 pellet 00 Buck and #4 Buck. I also suggested a box of #7½, #8 or #9 shot for home defense. Ron's 8-shot Defender was loaded with 9 pellet 00 and I suggested he make the switch. My 590A1 isn't loaded, but, there's 9 rounds of buckshot in the gun case.

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A soldier, airman, sailor or marine is no better than the sum of his/her training, experience and most of all leadership. If you know the history of US Special Forces, you know about the Devil's Brigade, a joint US/Canadian unit during WW II. Not a bad movie, but it only tells a little of their story. That attack on the mountain had 77% allied casualties. I'll get where I'm going, hang on.

When Derek was deployed to Iraq, there was a Marine contingent at the same location. When he was here Christmas '06, he had nothing good about those Marines. I needed to know what that was all about and did the logical thing, asked. The officers had no combat experience and the NCOs of rank Gunnery and above were ALL moved to other units. The remaining Marine NCOs were mostly specialists and mostly the Dirty Dozen. They had few leadership skills. Army Cav units have a similar mindset as Marines and Specs Ops personnel; they think they're the best of the best.

The young Marines lacked that leadership and experience they sorely needed. They tended to overreact, failed to follow their ROE and so forth. One example: The Marines came upon a 16 year old Iraqi who was carrying a HOE and walking to a field to hoe whatever. The Marine NCOs lacked fire control and the younger Marines opened up. Even their well-trained sniper missed the guy who was less than 100 meters away. Something like 73 rounds were fired by the Marines and the Iraqi was never hit.

It brings to mind that Recon Platoon in *Heartbreak Ridge*, except, they didn't have Clint to straighten them out. That Recon Platoon was pure fabrication, Force Recon is a whole lot better than that; they're the Corps Specs Ops people. Derek's criticism was more of the Marine's Command and Control than it was of the young Marines fresh out of boot. It wasn't unique to the Marine's over there either. Army units have so called Supply Class 10 funds used to acquire non-issue items, ergo, items not in categories 1-9. A Lt. Col. in Derek's chain of command just entered Leavenworth to do 8 years for mishandling the Class 10 funds under his control. The costs of the War on Terror are far higher than many of us know.

While Damon was in Chino, Derek was activated and federalized. There was trouble in southern California and several NG units were activated, federalized and sent here to

help LEOs brings things under control. That trouble was somehow related to the Illegals' Amnesty Program and tens of thousands of Hispanics had started a protest that evolved into violence. Derek was, by this time, a SFC (E-7). He was in charge of a Radar Unit which was a component of his Arkansas NG artillery unit. They observed for counter battery fire and other incoming fire. He was somewhere in the southland and Mary and the kids came out for a while, taking advantage of their accrued vacation. The violence escalated, seemingly with no end in sight. Realizing he never have a better opportunity, Derek called Joe and requested 4 weeks replenishment (2 flips) for a Brigade. The replenishment was divided into 2 categories, Army and Militia with us getting the Militia share. We would acquire, in very short order, 4 boxcars of matériel with each flip. (In a military context, matériel relates to the specific needs of an army to complete a specific mission.)

Because I added another dozen papers to my morning reading list, I found it necessary to sort them into 2 lists. I created 3 subdirectories and label one 'good', the second one 'bad' and the other 'ugly'. I don't know what it is with the trashy papers, but if they can't display some woman's breasts on paper one, they must feel like they're not doing their job. I'm a leg man, ergo, the legs are located about 8" below the chin. I remember reading one article where a female correspondent discussed selecting a T-Shirt bra.

Excerpt:

"I've been looking at women's breasts a lot lately. Can't help it. It's my job.

"Since the weather warmed up, our figures (including those pesky bust lines) are on display. And it has quickly become clear to me that a lot of us have been dropping the ball, so to speak, when it comes to uplift.

"This is why I've launched a Springtime Bosom Patrol – to diagnose the problems and find solutions.

"In addition to droop, there is what is euphemistically known as lack of 'complete coverage' at the 'apex of the breast' or, to us plain talkers: nipple show-through."

That was a woman, not a man; she's a fashion consultant. They can let 'em show through all they want, I couldn't care. God designed them to feed babies, right? See how old I've gotten? First, they padded 'em, then they supplemented 'em and all the while, they were used less and less for God's intended purpose. Some women, it appears, would rather die from breast cancer than become less of a woman. The latest idea is to lob 'em off and begin rebuilding 'em at the same time. If your husband loves you less because you lost one, he probably didn't love you before, or he's a very shallow man. Guys: check out the UK Sun. The guys? They all think they're John Holmes.

o

According to data I found, 1 million Americans moved to Mexico and 30 million Mexicans moved to the US. Understand, the Americans couldn't afford to live here on their retirement, but moving to Mexico made them feel rich. The Mexicans just wanted their slice of the American Pie. 'Drove my Chevy to the levee, but the levee was dry...' (Eight and one half minutes).

LA has the Latino gangs, an assortment of black gangs, Asian gangs, El Salvadoran gangs; hell, it's the melting pot. It also has a very large population of those people who would be citizens, although apparently you don't have to be a citizen to collect social security, anymore. Worse, all those would be's send most of the money they make back to Mexico. Which has little to do about why they protest immigration reform. They do that to cut school – with the LAUSD, they'll learn more on the street.

So now, my kid is down there trying to keep 'em sorted out. Iraq was safe by way of comparison; all he had to worry about over there was IEDs. The times, they are a changing. We're building a pipeline across Canada to get our oil here, although we don't have enough refineries. The Mexicans are rich, or will be as soon as PEMEX gets that new field open. Israel is surrounded by hostiles, nothing new there. We're converting our corn to alcohol because George said we ought to do it, causing the Mexicans to starve. They only needed 10,000 FX-05s because that's all the real soldiers they have.

And me? I'm trying to figure out where to store 4 railcars of matériel. I don't even know what we have; I haven't had time to go through it. Since it's Army stuff, it has to include AT-4s, only the Marines use LAWs. It's parked on a siding up near the lumber yard 1 mile west of Blackbird Park. Bottom line, bad times are coming, but we'll eat.

Did I miss anything? Oh yeah, despite a huge proven reserve of hydrocarbons, the Californian Environmentalists still won't allow offshore drilling. They must be afraid it will kill off the spotted owl population, or something. Did you read in the paper that 70% or more of the bees in the High Desert are Africanized Honey bees? You'd better get your honey at the grocery store. While it's a great source of sugar, you didn't see that on my list of what's on the shelves, we only have a couple of plastic jars.

o

All of the 7.62x51mm on the railcars was either belted or 175 grain M118LR. I had to unbelt some of the ball ammo, I only have a 1 turn in 11 barrel. I set the tracers aside so I can sell them to some desperate Californian who wants some illegal ammo. AP is legal, tracer isn't, it will start a forest fire, I guess. M80 ball is 147gr, M852 168gr and M118 173 gr. Some sources say 1 in 11 turns is ok up to ~180gr. However, probably the best round for a 1 in 11 barrel is 168gr Match.

I managed to get my hands on ~1,000 5-round stripper clips what work just fine in my rifle. So I ended up sitting for many hours, loading them, packing 2 per bandoleer slot with cardboard between and putting the bandoleers and a desiccant back in the ammo can. I only had a few of the adapters so I couldn't put one in each bandoleer. When I

finished, I had 2,000 rounds of SA in 20 round boxes, 7 per sealed battle pack and a total of 14 battle packs. Plus all the LC M80 ball on the strippers in the bandoleers in the ammo cans. My luck, I'll get killed by the first shot fired.

I don't care if you call her Hillary, Hitlery, Billary or the wicked witch of the east. They're all more or less correct. By getting Bill elected first for 2 terms, she gets a total of 4. She ain't stupid, she never went to prison, which by many accounts she should have.

Her acceptance speech:

"I've loved two women in my life. I lost one to cancer, and I lost the other 'cause I was so busy keeping my job I forgot to do my job. Well, that ends right now. Tomorrow morning, the White House is sending a bill to Congress for its consideration. It's White House Resolution 455, an energy bill requiring a 20 percent reduction of the emission of fossil fuels over the next ten years. It is by far the most aggressive stride ever taken in the fight to reverse the effects of global warming. The other piece of legislation is the crime bill. As of today, it no longer exists. I'm throwing it out. I'm throwing it out [and] writing a law that makes sense. **You cannot address crime prevention without getting rid of assault weapons and handguns. I consider them a threat to national security, and I will go door to door if I have to, but I'm gonna convince Americans that I'm right, and I'm gonna get the guns.** We've got serious problems, and we need serious people, and if you want to talk about character, John, you'd better come at me with more than a burning flag and a membership card. If you want to talk about character and American values, fine. Just tell me where and when, and I'll show up. This is a time for serious people, John, and your fifteen minutes are up. My name is Hillary Clinton, and I *am* the President, Again."

I sort of liked her opening line... she'd have been smarter to have picked up Michael Douglas a little later in his speech, the Moral Majority will be out to get her. Wait, he died, sorry. A majority of one?

The bit in the movie before that ran something like this:

"For the last couple of months, Senator Rumson has suggested that being President of this country was, to a certain extent, about character, and although I have not been willing to engage in his attacks on me, I've been here three years and three days, and I can tell you without hesitation: Being President of this country is entirely about character. For the record: yes, I am a card-carrying member of the ACLU. But the more important question is why aren't you, Bob? Now, this is an organization whose sole purpose is to defend the Bill of Rights, so it naturally begs the question: Why would a senator, his party's most powerful spokesman and a candidate for President, choose to reject upholding the Constitution? If you can answer that question, folks, then you're smarter than I am, because I didn't understand it until a few hours ago. America isn't easy. America is advanced citizenship. You gotta want it bad, 'cause it's gonna put up a fight. It's gonna say "You want free speech? Let's see you acknowledge a man whose words make your blood boil, who's standing center stage and advocating at the top of his lungs that which

you would spend a lifetime opposing at the top of yours. You want to claim this land as the land of the free? Then the symbol of your country can't just be a flag; the symbol also has to be one of its citizens exercising his right to burn that flag in protest. Show me that, defend that, celebrate that in your classrooms. Then, you can stand up and sing about the "land of the free".

I've known Bob Rumson for years, and I've been operating under the assumption that the reason Bob devotes so much time and energy to shouting at the rain was that he simply didn't get it. Well, I was wrong. Bob's problem isn't that he doesn't get it. Bob's problem is that he can't sell it! We have serious problems to solve, and we need serious people to solve them. And whatever your particular problem is, I promise you, Bob Rumson is not the least bit interested in solving it. He is interested in two things and two things only: making you afraid of it and telling you who's to blame for it. That, ladies and gentlemen, is how you win elections. You gather a group of middle-aged, middle-class, middle-income voters who remember with longing an easier time, and you talk to them about family and American values and character. And wave an old photo of the President's girlfriend and you scream about patriotism and you tell them, she's to blame for their lot in life, and you go on television and you call her a whore. Sydney Ellen Wade has done nothing to you, Bob. She has done nothing but put herself through school, represent the interests of public school teachers, and lobby for the safety of our natural resources. You want a character debate, Bob? You better stick with me, 'cause Sydney Ellen Wade is way out of your league."

Right, the ACLU is an organization whose sole purpose is to defend the Bill of Rights. They may have had that as their sole purpose, once. On paper, they still do. However, getting Nazis the right to march in Skokie, wasn't their finest hour. They found more protected freedoms in the Bill of Rights than there are WORDS in the Bill of Rights. It was probably someone from the ACLU who wrote Andrew's speech.

I'm a card carrying member too. Of the NRA and the American Legion. I liked the movie because Mrs. Beatty was kinda cute. She publicly criticized Hillary Clinton's 2000 bid for a seat in the Senate representing New York as the work of an opportunist. Like her better now?

Do you know what they call a man whose words make your blood boil, who's standing center stage and advocating at the top of his lungs that which you would spend a lifetime opposing at the top of yours? A Target. The speechwriter must have been referring to Skokie. The symbol of your country can't just be a flag; the symbol also has to be one of its citizens exercising his right to burn that flag in protest. Not my flag! In that case, the symbol of the country will be the guy stomping the flag burner's ass into the pavement. If free speech were simply talking, it would be one thing. These days, that defines almost all things obnoxious.

I'd better turn on The Situation Room and see what Wolf and Jack have dreamed up today. I love it, news with a built in bias. What happened to the real reporters? Well, Bernard Shaw retired, Peter Jennings, John Chancellor and Ed Morrow died. I figure a bul-

let would just slip off Geraldo. I'll bet you didn't realize that educating could be so entertaining.

Did I mention the 30 boxes of Bunn coffee filters, all stuck together, of course. We have some kind of gadget that's supposed to separate them, but someone hid it.

She should have gone after the guns BEFORE the troops came home. Worse, she decided we needed a second 'Peace Dividend'. Apparently she forgot about the Jihadists making their way to America. Better to carry on their fight on our shores, anyway. The only thing better than owning 1 M1A rifle is owning 2, preferably with one of them being a Super Match with a carbon steel Douglas barrel – \$3,393 at Gallery of Guns. If you can afford the rifle, you can probably afford a very good matching scope, turned to the M118LR cartridges. Plus if Bill Gates will loan you some pocket change, you can get a matching AN/PVS-27, and perhaps, even a Surefire suppressor, the ultimate flashhider.

"What are you doing now?"

"Dreaming, I'm always dreaming."

"What about?"

"A Super Match fixed up the way I'd want one."

"You'd have to sell your house."

"You think? Could we clear enough to buy one?"

"Why would you want to do that?"

"Can't get anything in which to excavate a hole."

"What do you need a hole for?"

"My bomb shelter, of course."

"Ok, here's what you do, Gar-Bear. You sell the house and buy a new one. Just put enough down to get it bought and spend the remainder on a shelter. Maybe you might have enough left over to buy that ton of bricks gun you want to go with it."

"Really? A Tac-50?"

"I was referring to the Super Match."

"If you think that's heavy, try an M82A1 with a Raptor 6X and 10 spare magazines of Raufoss."

"What would that run?" (Now, I think he meant, how much would it weigh?)

"About 20 grand with Barrett ammo. More if you got real ammo."

"What's real ammo?"

"Mk 211 MP Raufoss, HEIAP. \$7.50 a round, not counting the tax stamps."

"Tax stamps?"

"Yeah, each round is considered a destructive device. I saw a .458 Winchester model 70 at KSL.com. It was cheaper than that and it's a REAL elephant gun."

"Aint no elephants in Palmdale, partner."

I'll bet Ron replies to the ad at KSL.com I checked and there are actually 2 model 70s in .458 Winchester. Not that expensive, until you go to buy ammo. Which is probably why they for sale, too much overhead. Ron needs to get back to Robert's before TSHTF, all of his big guns are in Cedar Hill. 458 Win Mag. 500 gr. TSX is loaded by Federal. It runs about \$6 a round. Banded Barnes solids in .458 are hard to come by, but available. Or, you could get a .600 Nitro Express, \$325 for 20 rounds. Hey if you can afford the hand built rifle, you can afford the ammo. Yep, Tim Kelly and Toubo Smith. The show was called *Soldiers of Fortune*. The show featured the .600 Nitro Express, double barreled rifle; at the time, the most powerful hunting rifle in the world.

Classic 20th century .600 Nitro double rifles were almost always completely hand-made from raw steel and the best walnut wood, and they were and are extremely expensive. Making one could employ a gunsmith working full time on a single rifle for many months, even for a whole year. Like other double rifles they were regulated so that both barrels would shoot to the same point of impact at the range specified by the customer. For a high-grade specimen in good condition, a price in excess of \$100,000 can be expected.

Bullet Weight: 900 grains (58.3 g)

At muzzle:

- Velocity: 1950 ft/s (590 m/s)
- Energy: 7591 ft/lb

At one time the .600 was the most powerful commercial rifle cartridge in the world. However, that title is now held by the .700 Nitro Express. The .600 was designed to deliver the maximum possible stopping power against elephant under the most difficult and dangerous conditions. The .700 uses a 1,000gr bullet.

When Fiction Becomes Fact – Chapter 3

She tried – but she couldn't do it. I said she should get the guns BEFORE the troops came home. She was having trouble with Squirrels, TB2Kers, Minions and even the folks at War Rifles, not to mention about 100 other Survivalist sites. Because nearly everything was illegal in the PRK, they didn't start with us first. They started in the DEEP SOUTH. We all know what idiots ATF and FEMA are, but they just had to prove us correct. The last thing I would do would be to tell Johnny Reb he had to give up his guns. I'm slow, but I AIN'T STUPID.

They already fought one War of Northern Aggression; they've had practice and have long memories. I know that SOUTHERN California don't count, but boys, I'm with ya, at least in spirit. Let me know when you have the 'Dam Yankees' under control.

*London calling to the faraway towns
Now that war is declared-and battle come down
London calling to the underworld
Come out of the cupboard, all you boys and girls
London calling, now don't look at us
All that phoney Beatlemania has bitten the dust
London calling, see we ain't got no swing
'Cept for the ring of that truncheon thing*

CHORUS

*The ice age is coming, the sun is zooming in
Engines stop running and the wheat is growing thin
A nuclear error, but I have no fear
London is drowning-and I live by the river*

*London calling to the imitation zone
Forget it, brother, an' go it alone
London calling upon the zombies of death
Quit holding out-and draw another breath
London calling-and I don't wanna shout
But when we were talking-I saw you nodding out
London calling, see we ain't got no highs
Except for that one with the yellowy eyes*

[CHORUS]

*Now get this
London calling, yeah, I was there, too
An' you know what they said? Well, some of it was true!
London calling at the top of the dial
After all this, won't you give me a smile?
I never felt so much a' like*

©1979, The Clash

Maybe I'd better back down here, I wouldn't want to sound racist, like Geraldo asserts. Speaking of whom, he made it back to the top of the list. What list? The 600-yard list. I'm a little better than I thought, but may have to use a scope. Back when, I watched the Glenn Beck Special on illegal immigration. Geraldo took 23 seconds to call Glenn a racist. That was the show where he interviewed that lying attorney general concerning putting our border patrol agents in prison for shooting a fleeing drug dealer in the hind end somewhere. I've got it now, if you object to illegal immigration, you're a racist, not a law and order type of guy.

A person has to draw the line somewhere and if you want to kill me solely because I'm a Christian, I figure I'd better kill you first. I don't want to kill them simply because they're Muslims. I want to kill them because they want to kill me. That bit about owning one – that's against the 13th Amendment, or does that only apply to black people? Let's check:

1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Nope, it applies to everyone, except husbands (or wives take your pick depending upon your circumstances). Notice anything? You can be enslaved if you're convicted of a crime.

hear somethin' sayin'

*(hooh! aah!) (hooh! aah!)
(hooh! aah!) (hooh! aah!)*

*(Well, don't you know)
That's the sound of the men working on the chain ga-a-ang
That's the sound of the men working on the chain gang*

*All day long they're singin'
(hooh! aah!) (hooh! aah!)
(hooh! aah!) (hooh! aah!)*

*(Well, don't you know)
That's the sound of the men working on the chain ga-a-ang
That's the sound of the men working on the chain gang*

All day long they work so hard

*Till the sun is goin' down
Working on the highways and byways
And wearing, wearing a frown
You hear them moanin' their lives away
Then you hear somebody sa-ay*

*That's the sound of the men working on the chain ga-a-ang
That's the sound of the men working on the chain gang*

*Can't ya hear them singin'
Mm, I'm goin' home one of these days
I'm goin' home see my woman
Whom I love so dear
But meanwhile I got to work right he-ere*

*(Well, don't you know)
That's the sound of the men working on the chain ga-a-ang
That's the sound of the men working on the chain gang*

*All day long they're singin', mm
My, my, my, my, my, my, my, my, my work is so hard
Give me water, I'm thirsty*

FADE

*My work is so hard
© 1960, Sam Cooke*

Now you know about how word/thought association works...

The military wasn't allowed to fire on those protesters unless they were fired on first, normal ROE. Be that as it may, only the military followed the ROE and the protesters used snipers.

"You ok?"

"Hell no, I'm not ok. It hurts like a mother. SOB shot me in the back."

"What are you doing here?"

"Convalescent leave (Unit commanders normally approve convalescent leave based on recommendations by either the Military Treatment Facility authority or physician most familiar with the member's medical condition). Convalescent leave is an authorized absence normally for the minimal time needed to meet the medical needs for recuperation and I can't go back until I am fit for duty."

"It's unfortunate it's in your left shoulder."

"Wouldn't matter, Dad, it will take the same amount of time to heal. They won't let us shoot them, so whether I can use a rifle or not doesn't matter."

He didn't have to ask where we put the stuff. The Army shipped it in 20' containers, 16 containers to the railcar. We used a crane to lift them onto a couple of flatbeds then another crane to unload them in the housing tract. They went all the way around the housing tract. We had them labeled and padlocked. There was just enough room between them to open the doors.

◦

Worst President in History? Dubya ranks in the middle. The best guy was Washington and the worst guy was Harding. Maybe so, but in my lifetime, the 2 worst were Jimmy and Bill, the most dishonest were Lyndon and Dick. The one I liked the most was Gerald. JFK was probably the bravest. Ronnie wanted a Ray-gun and taught us about jelly bellies. George Jr. talked too much, and didn't say much.

◦

The Classes of Supply are:

Class I – Subsistence (food), gratuitous (free) health and comfort items.

Class II – Clothing, individual equipment, tentage, organizational tool sets and kits, hand tools, unclassified maps, administrative and housekeeping supplies and equipment.

Class III – Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants (POL) (package and bulk): Petroleum, fuels, lubricants, hydraulic and insulating oils, preservatives, liquids and gases, bulk chemical products, coolants, deicer and antifreeze compounds, components, and additives of petroleum and chemical products, and coal.

Class IV – Construction materials, including installed equipment and all fortification and barrier materials.

Class V – Ammunition of all types, bombs, explosives, mines, fuzes, detonators, pyrotechnics, missiles, rockets, propellants, and associated items.

Class VI – Personal demand items (such as health and hygiene products, soaps and toothpaste, writing material, snack food, beverages, cigarettes, batteries, alcohol, and cameras – nonmilitary sales items).

Class VII – Major end items such as launchers, tanks, mobile machine shops, and vehicles.

Class VIII – Medical matériel (equipment and consumables) including repair parts peculiar to medical equipment. (Class VIIIa – Medical consumable supplies not including blood & blood products; Class VIIIb – Blood & blood components (whole blood, platelets, plasma, packed red cells, etc).

Class IX – Repair parts and components to include kits, assemblies, and subassemblies (repairable or non-repairable) required for maintenance support of all equipment.

Class X – Material to support nonmilitary programs such as agriculture and economic development (not included in Classes I through IX).
Miscellaneous - Water, salvage, and captured material.

We wrote a Roman Numeral and a letter on the sticker we put on each container. If you had the codes, you could tell what was in the container; otherwise you were out of luck. We made sure that any Army markings were painted over. The 20 foot long by 8½ foot high by 8 foot wide ANSI and ISO container is the primary size container for unit equipment shipments. They call them CONEX. Unlike a flatrack, a containerized roll-in-roll-out platform, known as a CROP, fits inside a container and is used primarily to haul ammunition. CROPs and the ammunition stored on them are removed from containers after the strategic leg of a force movement, such as from the continental United States (CONUS) to a sea port of debarkation (SPOD). CROPs, along with truck tractors, then are used to move ammunition forward. The tare weight of a CROP is about 3,300 pounds.

Some units have their own containers. The Army refers to its unit-owned family of containers as Equipment Deployment Storage System (EDSS) containers. Examples include the interval slingable units (ISUs), containers express (CONEXs), quadruple containers (QUADCONs), triple containers (TRICONs), and other specialty containers used for such purposes as mortuary affairs, refrigeration, or medical services. ISUs 60 and 90 are 88 inches long, 108 inches wide, and either 60 or 90 inches tall. They are designed to be transported by helicopters, either internally or externally, and can be placed on top of 463L pallets.

Don't give me any grief over the fact that the shipment included material from different branches of Combat Support including but not limited to the Quartermaster Corp., and the Ordnance Corp. I didn't ask how Joe did it and Derek didn't explain. He said something about my lacking the need to know.

What the containers contained wasn't nearly as important as what they didn't contain. Those ammo containers had some Mk 211, but no M107s, 40mm grenades for both the M203 and Mk 19, but none of either weapon. There were a half dozen M16s, obviously depot overhauls. Maybe the second train, but not on the first. I made up a list and gave it to the kid as soon as he showed up on leave. He didn't even look at it, folding it and sticking it in his pocket.

I waited 2-3 days and asked him if the second flip could include some delivery systems, like the M107, an M203 and a couple of depot rebuilt M2HBs. He just smiled. I wasn't sure how to take that although the first flip contained spare M2HB barrels and linked ammo in 3 calibers plus, Mk 211. It even included linked 40mm grenades. If that new German grenade launcher will take the long grenades, is it safe to shoot the Mk 19 grenades in it? I wouldn't think so, but inquiring minds want to know.

When the second flip came in, the containers went on the other side of the street. That pretty much took care of all the parking places. The trouble in LA had to be bad if he

had time to heal and return. He had time to sort through the lists and find the things I asked about, extra M203s, refurbished M16s with M203s, that lovely old gal, Ma Deuce and her younger sister, everything I wanted except some LAWs.

The M107 had the day sight, the 10X manufactured by Unertl. I looked but I couldn't find a Raptor 6X. The .50 caliber Barrett Model 82A1/XM107 produces modest recoil energy. The weapon operating mechanism combined with an efficient muzzle brake reduced recoil energy to about 36 foot-pounds. The 25mm XM109 fires ammunition with essentially the same impulse as .50 caliber ammunition. However, the 25mm launches a much heavier projectile and uses much less propellant. The small amount of propellant limits the muzzle brake effects. The recoil energy of the XM109 exceeds 60 foot pounds. The suppressed version of the Model 82A1/XM107 produces significantly greater recoil energy than the muzzle brake variant of the 82A1/XM107, and is also a good candidate for recoil reduction efforts. That's why they dropped the rifle.

I sent an email to Savvy Survivor asking did he have a Raptor 6X for my M107. He emailed back; he had them, the price was over \$10,000. The 4X started at \$9,500 and both were available for immediate delivery. I didn't reply. We didn't have anywhere near \$10,000, nothing had happened yet to justify spending that kind of money, if we had it and maybe Derek could contact Joe and special order one. I'd have to ask, the next time I saw Derek.

Mary and the kids went back to Arkansas and Damon returned with his new fuel tank. We visited a little and I explained the facts of life to him. Next thing I knew, Air Care was there; they brought a pair of new wheelchair batteries and 2 wheelchair ramps. I tried to explain Derek's latest whiz bang idea to Damon having to do with using model rockets containing explosive warheads and a modified small radar set. Only thing was, I didn't understand it myself. I think it amounted to a homemade MLRS. Can't shoot rockets at MZBs unless you have MZBs. At least we had a few father-son projects going.

o

"Did you pick up the 590?"

"Yea, did the shells come?"

"The Brenneke slugs came, you'll have to pick up the other stuff yourself, I don't drive."

"Want to ride along?"

"Do I have to lift anything?"

"No."

"I'll come."

"When are we going to get the show on the road?"

"What do you mean?"

"When does the shooting start?"

"Oh, you want to go to the range?"

"For a shotgun? Are you kidding?"

"Do you understand about the ammo?"

"What's to understand?"

"Slugs beyond 25 yards, 00 between 10 and 25 yards and #4 Buck for shorter ranges. Use #9 shot in the house."

"Well, that's your opinion."

"Never said it wasn't."

After retrieving the ammo from High Desert, he asked about Blackbird Park.

"Turn left at the corner and go north to Avenue P. Turn right and you see the planes ahead on your left. The Park is at Avenue P (Ranch Vista) and 25th Street East."

"Have you ever thought of not getting prepared before TSHTF?"

"I thought about it, but that's not a good idea. We aren't as prepared as you might think; we don't have a bomb shelter for when the Russians and Chinese attack us. I don't have any Tamiflu at the moment. We only have a few boxes of N-95 masks and fewer of the N-100. Worse, we don't have any gas masks at all."

"You have gas masks, they're in one of the CONEXs."

"You better show me when we get home, we might need them."

"Why no bomb shelter?"

"No way to remove the sand so we could install one, provided we could afford one. Even if we could move that sand, the most we'd have room for would be 2 of the 10'x50' tubes."

"How much for 2 complete setups, I have some money left."

"Last I looked, \$46,500 per, plus delivery and installation. It would cost more to connect the two, call it a hundred grand."

"How big is your generator?"

"7kw."

"That will never do. I don't have the money for even one shelter, by the way. What's that plane?"

"Tomcat. Don't ask about the rest, I'm not sure. They have signs but you have to wait until the park is open to go in and read them."

"I thought so. They had some on the Kennedy."

"I thought the Kennedy was home ported in Florida."

"It was at Norfolk when I was in."

The last non-nuclear fueled Carrier was the Kitty Hawk and she was de-commissioned in 2008 and replaced by the Bush. Construction was underway on the Ford. The Ford aka CVN X aka CVN 21 aka CVN 78 wasn't scheduled to be commissioned until 2014.

Damon headed back to Iowa. When Derek reported back to duty, they told him they didn't need him. The unit had pulled their 90 days and was being sent home. He called to let me know and I thanked him for loaning us 128 CONEX containers. They contained roughly 1,280ft³, each. If the cargo was heavy, like ammo, the containers weren't full. If the cargo was light stuff, they were packed.

We had discussed it at length and he insisted one flip for a Brigade for 3 weeks would take about 50 railcars. 50 times 16 times 1,280 equals a shade over 1 MILLION ft³. That's a lot of beans, but a Brigade is what 4-5,000 soldiers? Do the math, that's 200ft³ per soldier for 21 days or ~10ft³ a day. Must be all those artillery shells... or maybe the rockets. Still, they probably had to bring in their own JP8.

With over 163,000ft³ of matériel, we could handle every MZB in the southland, provided they came. Except, nothing other than the illegals protesting and turning violent had happened. Maybe that's good, we don't have a shelter. I've concluded that, unless we got a shelter, I was going to sit in my robe in front of my computer and try to catch gamma rays.

Besides, with all due respect, Sharon Packer and I don't always see eye to eye. I haven't figured out how to make a reinforced concrete shelter flexible. Maybe add rubber to the concrete? No, I don't think that would work. She's a nuclear engineer or something like that; she knows more about it than I do. She says in earthquake country, the shelter must be flexible. If 3 miles from the San Andreas isn't earthquake country, I sure don't

know what is. I'm sure that 100 grand won't cover it either; we need a large fuel tank, fuel, radios, and a CD V-717. Damon bought us a 30kw Kohler generator, but not fuel. Considering what it cost, I couldn't complain, maybe I could afford a Raptor now. Right, I need 2, one for the Super Match I want to buy and one for the Tac-50. The M107 wasn't nearly as accurate as the Tac-50 and I didn't like it.

Could we build a shelter from containers? Probably, but, someone would have to reinforce them. Plus we'd have to wait until we had some empties. But wait, the reason they limit the amount of ammo in one is the weight and these weren't going anywhere. Therefore, we could double up the ammo and maybe, just maybe, have a few empty containers. If we put them 6 wide running north-south, we could use an oval corrugated pipe and connect them. All we have to do is figure out how to get the sand out.

That would give us a shelter about equal to an 8' pipe that was 120' long. Now maybe if I told those illegals living next door that they best shut up about our using their backyard to access my backyard to remove the sand or I'd turn them in, I would only have to pay the excavation contractor. Plus Utah Shelter systems for a couple of AV-150s and a couple of blast doors. Spare filters, of course, once they get started, who knows how many times we have to take cover? Then there's the matter of the gas tank, a propane tank, water tank and black water tank and sewage pump. Man, they get you coming and going...

But, how do I pay for it? Put an ad on E-Bay and start selling matériel, that's how. With ammo prices as high as they have been recently, I've got it made. Some of the stuff will have to be word of mouth, I don't believe E-Bay accepts ads for 40mm grenades or M67s. I can go to Global Security, see what the stuff costs the gubermint and sell it at that price. Hell, we'll be rich! Shh, don't tell anyone, jails are houses with bars on the winders.

I had to get Ron to translate for me, he learned some Spanish in TJ. I don't know what he told them but they pulled down the fence themselves. Got the guy in with an excavator and we moved dirt. Took some of that E-Bay money and ordered some stuff from up north. The generator will run on JP8, but we don't have any of that either. I needed 8,000 gallons so, I guess you know where that tank came from, huh? We didn't bury it that deep, it went behind the shed.

When I told Chris they'd have a place in the shelter if he'd figure out the container reinforcements and install them, he didn't exactly jump at the chance. He hemmed – would I buy the material; he hawed – would I pay for the electricity and welding wire; he coughed – did he need to put anything down in the shelter or would I provide everything? Well hell, I was rich, genuine US military ammo was selling like hotcakes. No, I said, I pay for everything, on one condition, he had to guarantee that the containers wouldn't collapse under the weight of the dirt and the over blast.

What was over blast, he asked. Up to 25psi, I said; I was allowing for them nuking plant 42. He said what the hay; he'd be down there so they'd better not collapse. We tarred

up the containers after he'd reinforced them, the contractor set them using a rented crane and Chris said, wait. He had an ace up his sleeve and I didn't have to pay for it. He said the evidence would be buried and no one could blame him, or me. Whatever, I said, just hurry, would you?

He stole those 1" thick road plates, welded them together and set them on a framework built over the top of the containers. Then he said we could fill in the hole. And that, folks, is how I got a shelter, this time. We stopped selling 5.56 way ahead of when we were down to the amount we'd need for WW III, IV, V and VI. We didn't really have that many M16A2s anyway. I wouldn't take one, I wanted either a G-36 or a HK416. I'd also take a HK417 20" Sniper Model in less than a heartbeat. Provided, of course, they included a AG-C/EGLM.

With the left over money, I contacted some guy Derek knew and got both the 416 and 417. I think maybe he overcharged me but, they don't sell to civilians. Not only that, but I got two MUNS and a Super Match.

Everything worked as advertised, even the CD V-717. I bought the new model; it looked like it had been run over by a small truck rather than a large truck like my CD V-715. While I was at it, I added 10 more CD V-742s. It was only half of what we'd need, but where was it written I had to supply everything to everyone? But for a fluke of fate, a bit of good old fashioned dishonesty and a very creative imagination, we wouldn't have 1% of what we had now. Better still, the only reason to go to MCLB was to get LAWs or Hummers.

Even with a Democratic controlled Congress, it took her highness a while to get the Comprehensive Firearm Control Act of 2009 passed. The short title of the bill was, Repealing the 2nd Amendment. They let people keep single and 2 barreled non-repeating shotguns, bolt action, single shot .22 rifles and single shot rifles with a bores not exceeding 0.222". You could still hunt, but you had to be a very good shot, or lie. ALL semi-automatic, pump and most bolt action firearms were outlawed because they were either Assault Weapons or Sniper Weapons. They had the 4473s and were going to go door to door, if they had to, to get the guns.

In an unprecedented move, the NRA and like organizations destroyed their membership lists and the NRA Museum was robbed during the dark of night. It wasn't a whole lot of firearms, but they had one of everything, most NIB. Military organizations were forced to inventory their weapons and account for any that were missing, heads would roll over this one. Joe told Derek he wasn't worried if Derek wasn't. Derek called me and asked about the weapons and ammo.

"We used 6 of the containers to build a bomb shelter. Some of the ammo came up missing, but don't worry, I think the good guys got it. They won't find anything, not even with their ground penetrating radar. I have no guns, because the only single shot .22 rifle and single shot shotgun are at your house."

I got a Glenfield Marlin single shot .22 in the 50s for selling greeting cards or Cloverine salve, I can't recall. The shotgun was a 20 gauge single shot that belonged to my grandpa (my mother's father). The barrel was badly pitted, but it could still shoot. My late brother also had a newer single shot 20 gauge, but I hadn't seen it since 1961.

When Fiction Becomes Fact – Chapter 4

With the last of my new found wealth, I bought 3 Colt SAAs, one of each barrel length, a Marlin 1894 rifle in .45 LC and a Marlin 1895 Cowboy in .45-70. I had appropriate scabbards, even for the new Coach Gun. The coach gun was in the scabbard on my wheelchair, the other weapons put up with the things we were saving for a rainy day. Even under the new law, the coach gun was legal.

Holsters? I had to settle for some of that Mexican stuff, purchased down at Olvera Street in LA. It was hand tooled, maroon in color, but still...

Number 2 son called to say he was west bound and down, and be still my heart, big brother was on the way with his 3 kids. It didn't sound good, he was giving up his day job, for a while, at least. He told me to check my emails he'd written an explanation that I could study while they drove.

If I live 10,000 years, I will have 128 empty containers, anyone need one?

*In the year 2525
If man is still alive
If woman can survive
They may find*

*In the year 3535
Ain't gonna need to tell the truth, tell no lies
Everything you think, do, and say
Is in the pill you took today*

*In the year 4545
Ain't gonna need your teeth, won't need your eyes
You won't find a thing to chew
Nobody's gonna look at you*

*In the year 5555
Your arms are hanging limp at your sides
Your legs got nothing to do
Some machine is doing that for you*

*In the year 6565
Ain't gonna need no husband, won't need no wife
You'll pick your son, pick your daughter too
From the bottom of a long glass tube' Whooooa*

*In the year 7510
If God's a-comin' he ought to make it by then
Maybe he'll look around himself and say*

Guess it's time for the Judgment day

*In the year 8510
God is gonna shake his mighty head then
He'll either say I'm pleased where man has been
Or tear it down and start again Whoooo*

*In the year 9595
I'm kinda wondering if man is gonna be alive
He's taken everything this old earth can give
And he ain't put back nothing*

*Now it's been 10,000 years
Man has cried a billion tears
For what he never knew
Now man's reign is through*

*But through eternal night
The twinkling of starlight
So very far away
Maybe it's only yesterday*

*In the year 2525
If man is still alive
If woman can survive
They may thrive*

*In the year 3535
Ain't gonna need to tell the truth, tell no lies
Everything you think, do or say
Is in the pill you took today ...
©Zager and Evans*

Sent an email to Zager to tell him how much I like the song. The reply: Thank you, I'll tell my father, he'll appreciate that.

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Derek had an armory made up of museum pieces, all supposedly demiled. They weren't, but the paperwork said they were. One item, Baby, wasn't on anyone's list, except his. He showed me his list:

Spencer carbine .56-56 rimfire
Sharps buffalo rifle .50-70
Winchester 1873 .44 WCF (.44-40)
Henry Rifle .44 rimfire

Pair of Walker Colts .44 ball
Mauser K98 8mm
Springfield M1903 .30-06
3 Lee-Enfield .303 rifles, Mk I, Mk III and a rifle no 5 Mk I the famous jungle carbine
M1 Garand .30-06
M1928 Thompson (think Winnie's gun) .45ACP, 30 round sticks
M1911 .45ACP Colt pistol
Enfield 1853 Rifled Musket, .577 caliber rifled musket with CSA markings
Baby, aka M168 Vulcan mounted on a M113, 20mm aka M163 VADS

And, more, he said. His email outlined what he knew about what was happening:

D-day -30: As part of her "Fairness in Environmental Action" plan, the newly elected President issued a moratorium on all new exploration, exploitation, and refinery construction until "Scientific authorities can establish beyond a reasonable doubt that these actions will not adversely impact our delicate ecosystems and foster a return to the lasting harm caused by the past raping of the environment by corporate America."

D-day -29: In response to massive slides in energy stock valuation, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve lowers the Prime rate to close to 0%. (0.25%)

D-day -28: The President demanded the immediate resignation of the entire Federal Reserve Board on a nationally televised address.

D-day -23: The newly-appointed Federal Reserve Board resets the prime rate to 3.85%.

D-day -23 to -19: All domestic exchanges experience a massive crash in stock prices, resulting in 5 straight days of emergency shutdowns at all exchanges. Dow Jones 30 Industrials fell from 14,375.65 to 11,098.74 in one week. Other markets suffer worse declines, including NASDAQ falling to 668.10 from over 3,400 in the same time period. Unemployment jumped to double-digits over the next week.

D-day -18: British PM, Brown, was ousted in response to the collapse of the European markets. Blame was placed on his close ties to the US. The EU censures Great Britain for fostering economic ruin.

D-day -14: India sent two divisions to the northernmost corner of Paki-Indian border in response to Pakistani maneuvers.

D-day -10: China accused India of border incursions across Sino-Indian border by recently moved divisions. Issued ultimatum to India to recall both divisions.

D-day -9: China mobilized around 60% of the PLA to Sino-Indian border.

D-day -7: US issued official protest of Chinese mobilization to UN Security Council.

D-day -4: After 72 hour marathon session of the Security Council, PRC withdraws from UN.

D-day -3: US publicly denounced Chinese actions as "overly aggressive" and invited all parties to negotiations in Diego Garcia.

D-day -2: China accused US of complicity in alleged Indian incursion.

D-day -1: OPEC declared US "unfriendly" to member nations. OPEC announced complete oil embargo on United States, India, and all British commonwealth nations. Prospective members Ecuador, Mexico, et al. also embargoed all shipments of petroleum products, from crude oil to refined.

D-day: China and Pakistan invaded India in a joint campaign. Surprisingly conventional, the fighting reached the outskirts of Mumbai within 96 hours.

D-day +1: The United States declared a total embargo of all import/export items from OPEC nations and China.

D-day +5: ELINT confirmed the secret deployment of two dozen Category A PLA Divisions to Mexico for joint exercises. Total forces number 360,000 screaming Chinese, 200,000 Mexicans, and tens of thousands of other Central/South American soldiers.

D-day +5: Panama Canal Authority closed the canal to all US flagged vessels, including naval vessels.

D-day +6: Congress issued a non-binding resolution threatening mass resignation to protest President's back-door non-aggression pact proposal, creating a Constitutional crisis over which branch of government possesses authority over treaties.

D-day +6: Derek, Mary, & kids moved to "Youbetcha Ranch". Derek continued on to California to invite rest of family to Youbetcha, Arkansas; population our family and friends.

His outline of the events of the preceding days was accurate, right up until D-day +6, the day I THOUGHT he and his family were coming to Palmdale. That's the problem with hurried phone conversations. We each had what we called Plan A and, wouldn't you know it, they weren't the same. I had to know a whole lot more about Youbetcha Ranch before I'd go there. Could we move the remaining containers? If yes, how? It was easy enough to seal the shelter and give Chris the key. I wouldn't go without my weapons, you know, the ones I didn't have.

Did I misunderstand; were Damon and his kids coming here or going to Youbetcha Ranch? If the ranch was in Arkansas, what was the humidity like? Hot and dry is ok, hot and wet, isn't. I suppose we could always pump the Jet A out of the Chevron trailer

tanker into another Chevron trailer tanker and haul it to Youbetcha Ranch. I could take the Kohler and leave the PowerBOSS and a few cans of gas. We could mount the propane tank on another trailer and pull that too. Did he have any AV-150s? I could leave the ones I had and just take the spare filters.

Finally, could we try to get a few flatcars and haul the containers? Could we get them from Palmdale to Arkansas? Just where was Youbetcha Ranch? I had my investments to protect, all that Black Hills 165gr Soft Point and the 168gr HP Match for the Loaded and the HK417. All the M118LR for the Super Match and that Black Hills 175gr HP Match. The Mk 211 MP was still in the original containers, thank God.

Damn, we didn't sell enough of the 5.56x45mm that it resulted in 6 empty containers, so we'd have to replace some and redistribute the ammo. And here we are, according to the outline at D-day+7. Did he intend to include my partner or not? If not, I'd leave the Jet A and the generator and try to borrow another (steal; borrow implies you intend to return it. I did, eventually – In the year 2525, If man is still alive, If woman can survive, They may thrive) on the way east. Best timing was a week to redistribute the ammo, locate rail flatcars, load them and get rolling to the east. Maybe 10 days (inclusive) max to deliver the containers to Youbetcha Ranch.

Were there any nuclear targets near Youbetcha Ranch, ergo, were we leaving the frying pan for the fire? Still... I don't speak wetback or Chinaman. We were on home territory here; the only things I knew about Arkansas were in a couple of my stories, 28b – Mountain Home and 28c – Flippin, both parts of *TEOTWAWKI, Too*. My stories were a roadmap of sorts to places a person might want to go to when TSHTF. (You didn't know that?) So, what was it, the Sino-Indian-Paki conflict flaring into a nuclear exchange? The ragheads trying to nuke Israel? Or, simply a Sino-wetback invasion? Won't be many wetbacks, they're already here... living, some of them, in Moon Shadows.

Makes you want to hug a neighbor (while you're inserting Rambo I in his/her gut). Some may view this short tale as outrageous. Lots of prejudice being shown, or racism, another name for the same darned thing. That's not so, I only dislike one Jew named Tony, based on previous experience. What did Hitler call it, "The Final Solution of the Jewish Question" (Die Endlösung der Judenfrage)? I looked it up. The Nazis called it Operation Reinhard; we call it the Holocaust. Iran, of course, claims it never happened.

Goebbels: Regarding the Jewish question, the Führer is determined to clear the table. He warned the Jews that if they were to cause another world war, it would lead to their own destruction. Those were not empty words. Now the world war has come. The destruction of the Jews must be its necessary consequence. We cannot be sentimental about it. It is not for us to feel sympathy for the Jews. We should have sympathy rather with our own German people. If the German people have to sacrifice 160,000 victims in yet another campaign in the east, then those responsible for this bloody conflict will have to pay for it with their lives.

There have been a lot of inter-faith love-ins, conventions, dialogues, mediations and occasionally religious services over the years between Christian, Jewish, Buddhist and Muslim religious leaders in many parts of the world. At one such recent event, “A Gathering of Hearts Illuminating Compassion” held in San Francisco on October 16, 2006, the Dalai Lama said that he was a “defender of Islam,” that Muslims had been unfairly demonized and that he admired Islam’s “compassion.” A few days prior to this meeting, on October 11th in Prague, the Dalai said that Islam should not be condemned because of the acts of a few “mischievous” Muslims.

Muslim apologist Karen Armstrong talks of the “Three Abrahamic Religions” and I suppose that these inter-faith dialogues, meditations and such are premised on the idea that Islam is, indeed, just the same in basic content and attitude as Christianity and Judaism but, is it?

Anyone who has read the Qur’an, anyone who has read Ishaq’s biography of Muhammad, has got to realize that Islam could not be more fundamentally different from Christianity and Judaism. Yes, there is a type of “compassion” in Islam but, it is only for fellow Muslims, not for unbelievers. Yes, the Torah contains commands, here and there, from God to the Israelites to slaughter particular tribes or peoples, but neither the Torah nor the Bible contains an open ended command like Allah’s command to “kill the unbelievers wherever you find them.” The Bible has the Ten Commandments applicable to all, the Qur’an has no such set of universal commandments but instead sets up a dual system – one way for Muslims to behave towards fellow Muslims and another way, much less charitable, much less ethical, much more predatory and lethal, for Muslims to behave towards all unbelievers. Jesus never participated in battles, took slaves, ordered the killing of critics and laughed in delight when their heads were thrown at his feet or beheaded some of the Jewish warriors then watched for hours (accompanied by his 12 year old wife Aisha) as, one by one, all the six hundred men of the Jewish Banu Qurayzah tribe were beheaded in front of him: according to Ishaq (p. 464) Muhammad did. Jesus said “love your enemies,” Muhammad condemned some thieves who stole some Camels from a Muslim to have their alternate hands and feet cut off, their eyes burned out and ordered that they be taken out into the desert and left there to die (Bukhari, vol. 9, bk. 83, no. 37).

So what can we conclude? That these various Christian, Jewish and Buddhist religious leaders have never read the Qur’an or the biography of Muhammad, that they have purposely not read the Qur’an or Ishaq’s biography so that they aren’t confused by the facts, that they are in extreme denial, that they are other worldly, fools, just blindly hoping for the best? All I know is that Muslims are playing them like a violin and a lot of people are being lulled to sleep by this music. ©Posted by Silverback on the Powerline forum.

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Sean Osborne, Associate Director, Military Affairs says:

19 May 2007: Having just endured a near disaster in the wild fires of southern New Jersey, as well as the prospect of a mandatory evacuation with no guarantee that the family home would still exist in the aftermath, I've come away from this experience with significant additional lessons learned on how to prudently plan and prepare in advance of an unforeseen catastrophe. These lessons are an augmentation to those I have already put into place. I believe the application of the following plan might be a template upon which others could build a more robust family preparedness plan.

With respect to a mass-casualty or mass-destruction terrorist event, many American national authorities are clearly stating that it is not a question of "if," but "when" such a reality visits this nation again. Similarly and with respect to any of a number of different types of natural disasters – earth, wind, water and fire – they also can occur at any time and almost without warning anywhere in the country. Following these preparatory guidelines and/or merging them with others, given the uniqueness of your own situation, will ensure the optimum chances of your family's well-being or near-term survival at home or if evacuated to a remote location in a worst-case scenario. Following the recommendations of this special report will also go a long way relieving the unnecessary stress and tensions of last minute collecting of materials you will need to endure almost any situation.

One inherent beauty of such planning and preparation is that it invokes the most inviolate of all God-given American freedoms – the enabling right of self-determination. This planning and preparation might very likely become the critical determination as to whether or not you become just another hapless victim or a survivor.

A long-time favorite self-determination and preparedness website of mine is that of John Moore's website [thelibertyman dot com](http://thelibertyman.com). As John explains on his website, "The government cannot and will not protect individuals or families. Our government agencies are doing the best job they can to keep our country safe. However, no government agency (including FEMA) is responsible for a comprehensive defense program." Moreover, all facets of the safety, security and well-being of your family during a disaster scenario is your personal duty and responsibility. This is absolutely not the responsibility of the "government" regardless of all that you have heard in the MSM in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Uncle Sam will show up with multiple forms of assistance in due course, but until that time arrives you need to prepare as if your lives depended on it, because they probably will.

Here are my brief and basic recommendations for before you are confronted with a "got-ta go" situation:

Finance: Keep an acceptable amount of cold, hard cash, a spare debit or credit card in a convenient yet secure location in your home, vehicle or within prepared the stocks (sic) I'll get to later. In some really extreme instances banks or ATMs may not function where you are, so the cash will be essential.

Transportation: If you own an SUV make sure it has a roof rack. If not, get one. If you have a car, the addition of a roof rack is a good idea. Also, the addition of a trailer hitch is a good idea. You don't necessarily need a trailer for the hitch, but it is how you can attach a carry-all for other items I will identify below. As part of this area of preparation know where you can go in an emergency by identifying in advance at least three locations to evacuate to aside from public shelters. Have two filled 5-gallon auxiliary gasoline jerry cans in reserve at all times. A hand-operated siphon eliminates spillage. Always keep your vehicle in good running order.

Communications: I recommend the purchase of a Grundig FR-200 AM-FM-Shortwave radio. No batteries are required as it is powered by a simple hand crank mechanism. Have your cell phone fully charged as often as possible, and keep a spare 12VDC cigarette power adapter in your vehicle at all times. If you have a laptop computer, buy a wireless internet adapter card. Remote off-the-grid power is found in the next item below.

Portable Electrical Power: Consider purchasing one of the Xpower AC/DC powerpack modules made by Xantrex. They are small, hand-portable, rechargeable powerpacks which come with an AC/DC voltage inverter, integrated vehicle jumper cables (with fail-safe correct connection indicators), a 250 PSI air compressor with assorted nozzles, an integrated flashlight and one each 12VDC and 120VAC electrical outlets, and AC or DC recharging. I have the 400R model and find this unit to be absolutely invaluable all of the time.

When "Gotta-Go" time arrives here are items I recommend having in pre-packed, ready to load, modular containers which will go on your roof rack and/or trailer hitch carry all.

Consumable Sustenance: This is just another fancy way of saying life support essentials. Acquire non-perishable foods, dry, canned or dehydrated from your home pantry or cupboard. These supplies should be consumed and replaced with new as required. Augment this collection with the purchase of what are known today as MREs or Meals Ready To Eat. For a family of four persons a minimum of eight 12-meal cases should be accumulated. Two sources of these items I recommend are [apackmeals dot com](http://apackmeals.com) and [mrefoods dot com](http://mrefoods.com). A great assortment of tasty and nutritious meals, breads, fruits and drinks, among other items, are available at very low per meal/per person costs. Also keep a minimum of 4 cases of bottled water on hand. It would be advisable to have at least one 25-quart cooler to be filled with short-term perishables pulled directly from your refrigerator/freezer and then covered with 2 or 3 bags of ice. Depending on the situation, draining the water for other uses or purification is a bonus. The ice may be replenished according to your particular situation. At the minimum your refrigerated/frozen food will not have gone to waste.

Medicines and Sanitation: Keep all medicines and medical supplies, items for personal hygiene, vitamins and dietary supplements centrally located for quick accumulation in an emergency. Store some items in a prepared container. I highly recommend acquiring from [allthingsfirstaid dot com](http://allthingsfirstaid.com) a "Standard Trauma Kit." Also purchase and keep sealed

in their original wrapper several tubs of “baby wipes” of generic or national brands. These little pre-moistened handy wipes are just about indispensable whether you’re in Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan or somewhere in the US during an emergency. They will save gallons of precious water when used to take a ‘dry bath’. I would be remiss in not mentioning one medicinal item I would never leave home without. That would be a bottle of the virucidal-germicidal solution known as Oreganol P73 formula made by North American Herb & Spice. Oreganol contains the naturally occurring active ingredient carvacrol which kills virtually every virus known to man. Just two drops of Oreganol in your system will maintain your health against all manner of viruses. Certified medical research has proven the effectiveness of this product against Coronavirus, Type-A Influenza virus, with on-going studies reflecting positive results against HIV, HBV, HCV, herpes, Hanta and West Nile viruses, H5N1 Avian Influenza, Staphylococcus, Hepatitis, Candida. The other incredible health benefits of this product are far too numerous to list here. Oreganol is a germ-killer extraordinaire and can be taken internally or applied topically.

'Gimme Shelter': Purchase one or two quick-erect, 4 to 6 person dome tents. Add ground cover or water-proof tarps for each. Adding blankets, pillows, hammocks, sleeping bags, or cots to your shopping list will ensure comfort. Some of these items can be stored in the vacuum-sealed bags seen advertised on television. This saves space and keeps the bedding fresh until needed. The same goes for items of clothing and footwear. Purchase assorted camping related items and nylon rope, axe, hatchet, chain saw and the like for this segment of preparations.

As a rule of thumb, I have determined to always be prepared for a minimum of 30 days of survival necessities for four persons. Your circumstances will dictate what you can do. For other ideas, and an excellent resource you will delve into repeatedly, I would highly recommend you get the book “What To Do ‘Til The Cavalry Comes” released a year ago by author and subject matter expert Matt Lawrence, website: mattlawrence-books dot com. Matt’s book is a compendium of sage advice and a guide to prudent planning for any type of a given scenario such as I am urging all to immediately prepare for with this article. There is no time like the present. What you decide to do from this point forward will determine more than just your own survival in a natural or a man-made disaster. Others are counting on you to act prudently – now.

Another man's opinion. If anything, I think he is under prepared. I got the Advanced Trauma Kit because it might be a while before we'd get help. It's intended for up to 500 people. I got some Oreganol even though I wasn't sure it was all that great.

I had a little time, very little, to see about the containers. We could get by with renting 4 more. They weren't available locally. However, I knew where to look, Terminal Island. The good thing about TI was they had the trailers that the containers rode on. I'm sure there is a proper name for them, but I doubt that it's 'those wheel things'. Turns out, they had a common name, container trailers. They wanted the first month up front and the second month as a security deposit, cheap at twice the price, payable at the first of every month. Plus, they delivered.

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We worked all night moving items from the military containers to the rented containers and redistributing the ammo to the military containers. That was insurance in case there was something special about the military containers that we couldn't see. When Kid number 2 showed up I sat him down and explained the mix up. Kid number 1, it seems, was headed for Youbetcha Ranch. He had it in mind that he could get Sharon and me, Amy and her kids plus Lorrie and her family to pack up and move to Arkansas.

He handed me a pamphlet to read: **Youbetcha Ranch**

Youbetcha Ranch is a sprawling private property in north central Arkansas. Part of it is found in Marion County, southeast of Flippin. The remainder lies in Baxter County, southwest of Cotter. Altogether, it encompasses nearly 6500 acres of low mountains and river bottomland divided equally between post oak forest and cleared hay meadows.

Geologically speaking, the ranch boasts access to part of the extensive Bull Shoals cave system. Part of the eastern border is the White River. The ranch also has its own privately owned small reservoir (300 acres). The dam for this private lake has some minor hydroelectric capacity (~200 kW).

The ranch has been outfitted with a 10' stone surrounding wall with three gates: The North gate (a 15' clearance arch marked by the single word "UFFDA" in old English lettering), The East gate (also a 15' arch marked by "Halfway down the trail to Hell"), and the West gate (No overhead arch, flanked by two 25' towers named "Minas Ithil" and "Minas Anor"). The West gate allows access to truck traffic of any size.

The ranch is equipped with three 500kW wind turbines and a large solar panel array located on the roof of each building for a total solar generation capacity of roughly 300 kW. Combined with the hydroelectric generator the total capacity for generating is roughly 2 MW in ideal conditions. The ranch also has its own water purification plant and waste water treatment facility capable of handling a usage of 200,000 gallons per day. The waste water is released into the private lake after reaching potable water standards.

All solid waste (garbage) is sorted for recycling prior to leaving the ranch. Organic waste is composted to provide fertilizer for the gardens.

There are three major building groups in the ranch: the residential buildings, the agricultural buildings, and the "sufficiency" buildings. The 50 or so residences are nearly all ranch-style construction with full basements on single acre lots; the exceptions are a community activity center and gymnasium named "Fiddler's Green" and the private house of the ranch's owner. This 2½ story Victorian/Country style mansion is built on a 6" steel frame and features a granite façade, wraparound porch, and gabled roof.

Agricultural buildings are located approximately a half-mile away and include stables, confinement buildings for poultry and hogs, a hay barn, a milk barn, two separate cattle sheds with a 500 head capacity for cover, a third cattle shed with a 100 head capacity, a shearing barn, and storage facilities for both row crops and grain. Nearby are the access areas for the pasturage, hay fields, large crop fields, an orchard with several different types of fruit, nut, and maple trees, a 20 acre berry patch featuring several types of fruit, and a carefully fenced off area containing 20 beehives.

The “sufficiency” complex contains the powerhouse, the water treatment facilities, a small fire department with four vehicles, a jailhouse, the recycling center, several industrial buildings equipped to produce necessities such as textiles and refined commodities like fuel from organic bases and storage facilities for the products.

All of the buildings in the agricultural and “sufficiency” complexes are single level buildings constructed of reinforced concrete covered by earth, converting each building into a hardened bunker with a minimum of 1 meter thickness of reinforced concrete and four meters minimum thickness of compacted earth. The access doors face towards each other and are made of 4” thick grade “A” naval armor.

When Fiction Becomes Fact – Chapter 5

Pamphlet continued:

All buildings feature independent reverse osmosis water softeners, heat pump central air with a pressure sealed environment and positive interior pressure of 15 millibars. All buildings also boast access to an underground tunnel system that connects every building on the site.

There is also a very large warehouse structure located separately from the rest of the buildings (by a mile linear distance). To date, no one has any knowledge of the use for this building.

The owner is a very private man. The perimeter wall is backed up by an interior wire fence reinforced by barbed wire, razor wire, and is rumored to be electrified. Private security teams armed with bear spray and tasers patrol the grounds continuously. Trespassers are warned by sign at the entrance to the access roads that they are on private land and that the landowner will do “whatever is necessary” to “speed their removal” from the ranch grounds.

For a tour, you can call (870) 328-7448.

Holy moly, someone has A LOT OF MONEY. I caved in immediately, never look a gift horse in the mouth. He said that he had it mind that it might not go nuclear. However, if it did, we'd be better off in Arkansas than here near Plant 42. While we were in a prime target area, the fallout map for Arkansas didn't look good. Then he mentioned the caverns and things began to look up. I told him I was still trying to line up railcars, flatbeds specifically, and he picked up the phone, dialed a number and excused me.

It's been a while since I had been summarily dismissed, it didn't go down well. He then said that by the time we got the containers to the siding, the flatcars would be standing by, with an engine and enough fuel to take them where we were going. We hurriedly began to pack our personal items, the food, weapons, radiological equipment, etc. It was decided without my getting a vote.

You know how much I like to be charge of things that affect me. Sharon's quilting things didn't weigh a lot and were bulky so they went in with the ammo. The food stores were added to a class I container and the weapons. Except for those I kept out, in a class V container. A wee bit of extra alcohol, from B-2 liquors and a couple of other stores were added to a class VI container. I kept out a case of Coors, just in case.

On the way to Arkansas, we stopped by MCLB, Barstow where he got a requisition filled. With government logistics requisitions now being computer generated, apparently all he had to provide was proper identification and some minor written documentation. I suspect he got what we were missing because they weren't Army issue. Some time ago, he tried to explain to me how it worked, but it was over my head. So are most of

the people I know, I'm 5'4 when I hold myself erect. I used to claim 5'7 before I started to shrink.

I was angry over leaving my generator in Palmdale, Damon had just bought it and it was barely broken in. I was bound and determined to replace it before we got to Arkansas. The bad news was I couldn't find another Kohler 30kw generator; the good news was that the one I found was a Cummins DSGAC, 135kw prime, 150kw standby rated 3-phase, but hey, you borrow what you can get. He insisted I didn't need any damned generator. I think it weighed about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a ton, dry. It had a 6 cylinder inline engine and Power Command. We rented a U-Haul and a trailer hitch to haul it to Arkansas. I knew that credit card would come in handy, sometime.

And, of course, the first thing I heard all about was how the South kicked the Yankees' butts during the War of Northern Aggression. For crying out loud, can't we get our suitcases unpacked first? Can someone tell me if y'all refers to one person or the group? At least it was a new English based language, not Spanish or Chinese. I called back to Palmdale and learned that Ron had turned the keys over to Lance and headed for Cedar Hill, to consolidate his gun collection. And yes, we left him a small amount of ammo, maybe 20,000 rounds.

At D-day+11 we arrived at Youbetcha ranch. Our containers were there waiting for us; what does expedited military shipment mean? The LAWs rockets, packed 5 per carton, 3 cartons to the case, might or might not come in handy. We had 12 cases, a total of 180 rounds. It was closer to Flippin than I thought. Hey, you know what? This might just work.

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The primary problem with limestone caverns is that they're wet. The area set aside as a gun room had several dehumifiers running 24/7 and hoses connected to route the water somewhere, downhill. I like the laid back attitude they have about firearms down here in Arkansas. Plus, although a little short of legal, they were easily obtained and lower in price. The Governor of Arkansas, like so many other Governors ignored the new federal law.

You'd have thought a person couldn't get a CCW, being that all the guns were illegal. Somehow that provision about being a resident for over a year was getting overlooked, as long as your sponsor had lived there over a year. The laws says they have up to 120 days to issue or deny the permit. In our case, it was more like 120 minutes. After which, we were told to go forth and sin no more. It may take some time to get used to their sense of humor. And, let me point out that no more sounded a lot like never; never say never.

Let me tell you, more things were heating up than the weather. We cleared the Kali state line without a moment to spare. Those Chinamen, Mexicans and other Hispanics decided to do their war games NORTH of the border. Peaceful, yes? The pipeline was a

year or so from completion, most of our refineries were down for repair, the stock markets decided to not reopen for a while.

Right, but all Hitlery is concerned about is getting the guns. That, and saving the environment for the new rules of the US of A. It's our environment, we can ruin it if we want to. It was like the smoking laws, they were convinced the smell of your cigarette, cigar or pipe would kill them and that meant that you couldn't smoke, not that they couldn't invade your space.

We had our own home on the ranch. The only thing I can figure is that the moving van came to Flippin via Seattle, they were late. The only furniture we kept was our solid oak furniture, the rest was still sitting in Palmdale, because, we still owned the house. It was listed and Sharon told the realtor, no less than \$200,000. I'd be happy if it paid off the loan. The buyer could haul the furniture to the dump.

He had 4 tankers of Jet A and one tanker of gas for the folks who couldn't afford a diesel engine. Single units, not double bottomed, maybe 44' long, holding 9,000 gallons. When his unit was reactivated to go fight the war with Mexico, he was still healing. He did them a favor, though; he gathered up the Hummers and M109A6s they left behind and stored them until they got back.

Just so you don't get confused, alcohol is what you drink and ethanol is what you burn. Had me one those Colorado Kool-Aids, not half bad, after 12 years. Just one, mind you, guns and alcohol don't mix. On the other hand, I'm not so sure I don't like Coke better. These Southerners like Pepsi and they add too much sugar to their iced tea. Must not have many diabetics down here.

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About that little disagreement with Mexico. We been fighting them since the 1830s. We fought 3 wars, which they lost. They switched to Plan B, and we called it illegal immigration. By the time they got around to invading, most of their Army was already here, some probably living in Moon Shadows.

Anyway, we sat down and he showed me his collection of antique, demiled firearms. Let me say from the gitgo, whoever demiled them for him didn't know what they were doing, add bullets & powder/cartridges and they still worked, 100%. The best kept secret he had? He'd been to El Paso and Laredo, guess what I had? He should have told me, I bribe easily. The only thing I don't like to do and can't do well is ride a horse. Guess what, they called it a ranch, right?

My alternate form of transportation was a 5 year old mare, named Shelia. He claimed that that's what they called females in Australia. I called Fleataxi and told him we were in Arkansas near Bull Shoals and Ron had headed for Cedar Hill. Flea wanted to know was what was new and I told him about the HK416 and HK417. He hung up on me,

when I brought those to his attention; sent him an email way back when, his response was, 'Me want!'

I didn't mention Youbetcha Ranch, which would be giving aid and comfort to a man who wanted to take away my HK rifles. Anyway, Derek had a Yaesu FT2000D, the successor to the 9000 which was the successor to the 1000. He also had the VL-1000/VP-1000 Quadra System. He had beam antennas. I had a Kenwood TS2000X and some vertical antennas. Plus a SSB CB and no hand held radios (Chris wasn't nice when I asked).

Derek was nice enough, they lowered the tower and added my antennas about 20' above his beams. I wanted RG213; I got RG8. But he even put up the antenna for the CM-300 although I didn't have the radio. It was on my to-do list. I wanted one CM-300 for each vehicle and one for my radio shack. Plus, I wanted several of the CP-200s for walking around radios. VHF, not UHF, for longer range.

Up to now, we hadn't had a natural disaster, terrorist attack or a GTW (global thermonuclear war). And, what was new with a Mexican invasion? That had been going on for years. I was rather surprised about Derek having radios, but the technician license exam isn't that hard and you get a call sign. Whether that is good or bad is to be determined. I didn't like the idea of running away from the Mexicans.

I've actually been threatened over my stories. Every time I say I'm going to quit writing, the emails start. I get them from both of my fans. Anyway, here we sit, not in Palmdale, but just outside of Flippin, Arkansas, population ~1,400. Ron went to Cedar Hill to hunt elephants.

If you read Global Security about the M107, it's confusing. In one paragraph, it's the model 95 bolt action and in the next it's the model 82, semi-auto. The XM107 was originally intended to be a bolt-action sniper rifle, and in fact it was selected by the US Army in a competition between such weapons. However, the decision was made that the US Army did not, in fact, require such a weapon. The rifle originally selected under the trials to be the XM107 was the Barrett M95.

When the Army decided it no longer needed these weapons it found that it had money already allotted for XM107 rifles, and rather than deal with this complication, the decision was made to change the M82 Rifle's designation to M107, and use the money to purchase those types of rifles instead. In summer 2005, the M82 finally emerged from its Army trial phase and was approved for full material release, meaning it was officially adopted as the Long Range Sniper Rifle, Caliber .50, M107. There are no significant differences between the Barrett M82A1M/M82A3 and the M107. However, production M107s appear to have the addition of a rear monopod and there are rumors of internal improvements as well, but information has not been widely available. XM109 specs:

- Caliber: 25x59mm
- Operation: Short recoil operation, semi-automatic

- Overall length: 46 inches (1168 mm)
- Feed device: 5 round detachable box magazine
- Weight: 33.2 lb (15 kg)
- Muzzle velocity: 2600 ft/s (790 m/s)
- Max effective range: 3000 m
- Features: M1913 optical rail, BORS ballistic computer, monopod socket
- Accessories: Dual-chamber detachable muzzle brake or suppressor system; detachable bipod and carry handle

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Page 2:

In a world filled with opinions, now, we have this:

WASHINGTON, May 21, 2007 – US troops operating in Iraq and Afghanistan have the best body armor in the world, and the Army is constantly looking for ways to improve force protection, the general in charge of the program told reporters here today.

“Force protection is the No. 1 priority of the US Army. We value our soldiers very highly, and we do everything we can do to ensure that they have the finest in force protection as they go into the battle,” Army Brig. Gen. R. Mark Brown, Program Executive Officer Soldier, said at a Pentagon news conference.

In response to a May 17 NBC News report challenging the Army’s use of Interceptor body armor vs. the newer Dragon Skin armor developed by Pinnacle Armor Inc., Brown today released information about the testing that ruled out Dragon Skin a year ago.

The tests were conducted May 16 to 19, 2006, at H.P. White labs near Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. The Pinnacle armor was subjected to the same tests Interceptor body armor goes through, first being X-rayed and analyzed and then undergoing a series of live-fire tests, Brown said. The live-fire tests included room-temperature tests, harsh environment tests, and durability and drop tests.

Of the eight Pinnacle vests tested, four of them failed the tests, with 13 rounds penetrating completely on the first or second shot, Brown said. After the first complete penetration, the vests technically failed the test, but the Army continued the testing to be fair, he said.

The Pinnacle vests also were subjected to extreme temperature variations, from minus 25 degrees Fahrenheit to 120 degrees Fahrenheit, which would be a realistic cycle if the equipment was loaded onto a plane and flown to the Middle East, Brown said. These temperature tests caused the adhesive holding the Dragon Skin’s protective discs together to fail, and the discs gathered at the bottom of the vest, leaving gaps in protection, he said.

Brown also noted that the Dragon Skin vests are significantly heavier and thicker than

the Interceptor vests. Dragon Skin vests in size extra-large are 47.5 pounds and 1.7 to 1.9 inches thick; the Interceptor vests in size large, which offer an equivalent coverage area to the extra-large Dragon Skin vests, weigh 28 pounds and are 1.3 inches thick.

“Bottom line is it does not meet Army standards,” Brown said of the Pinnacle body armor.

Brown showed reporters videos of the tests, which were supervised by the chief executive officer of Pinnacle. He also displayed the actual vests that were tested, with markers showing the penetration sites.

The Army did not initially release the information about the tests because of possible security concerns, Brown said. “We are facing a very media-savvy enemy,” he said. “They’re not only media-savvy, they are Internet savvy. ... Everything that we put out into the public domain, we pretty much assume that they get. We don’t like to discuss our vulnerabilities and our counters to the vulnerabilities in the open public.”

However, after the NBC report, Army leaders felt they needed to counter any doubts in the minds of service members and their families, Brown said. “Our soldiers and, more importantly, the families – the wives, the children, the parents – have to have confidence that our soldiers have the best equipment in the world,” he said.

Right now, the Army’s safety-of-use message mandates that all soldiers use Interceptor body armor, which has passed the same tests the Pinnacle armor failed, Brown said. The Army is interested in a more flexible armor, like the Pinnacle design, and if the company improves its product, it could be reconsidered, he said.

Brown stressed that the Army has more than one set of body armor for every soldier in the combat theater, and that he has all the money and support he needs to make improvements to force protection. Also, the Army is constantly working to develop new technologies that will deliver better protection.

“This is not just a matter of debate for us; this is personal,” he said, noting that many of his staff members have relatives or friends who have served or are serving in Iraq or Afghanistan.

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When I asked Derek how he managed to pay for this, his face broke into a smile. It had to do with the Crater of Diamonds in Murfreesboro, Arkansas. Every year a few people find a diamond in the only Kimberlite pipe open to the public. You pay \$6.50 a head and get to search for the day. The largest stone ever taken from there went 40 carats, the famous Uncle Sam. It's finders – keepers. Therefore, you're not obligated to tell anyone what you find. Most people reveal their find when they ask the Park Rangers what they have. Mary didn't even tell him, until they got home.

They had the 4,898 carat rock cut, selling the better pieces and retaining about a dozen smaller diamonds. He said that with the money, they bought the farms and renamed the combined farm Youbetcha Ranch. Did I want or need anything? If so, he'd buy it with his pocket change. The stone, uncut, would have brought 8 figures. He surprised me, telling me that it was anonymous and consequently, no one in the world, save Mary, he and now me knew about that little piece of rock. A carat is 200mg. 4,898 carats is therefore about 979.6 grams, 31.49 troy ounces or 2.62 pounds.

The farm had an entrance to a cave that he explored and found it to be linked, he thought, to Bull Shoals Cavern. He told me that I needed a driver's license. I ask why and he said, so I could drive my new H1 Hummer Alpha. New? They quit making the H1 Hummer in 2006. Just to reveal how ungrateful I was, I asked about the options included. One of everything the manufacturer included or had available. It was a black 4 door wagon, the enclosed version. It had about 850 miles on the odometer. It had one of everything and a few after-market items added.

I failed the driving test, the first time, but I didn't give up. I passed on the third go round. I finally found the copies of my amateur test results from 15 years before and submitted them to the FCC, earning my Extra class license. They changed my call sign from 6 characters to 5 characters. The only reason I wanted it was to get greater frequency access. The guy who sold Derek his radio did something to mine and it would use every frequency there was, more or less. Anyway, I suppose it's fair to say, more, if not every.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, he was working day and night to equip the cavern as a shelter. Our food and supplies helped, as did the contents of the CONEXs. They said that they wanted the ability to house up to 1,500 people. I told them it would take a lot of beans. I also pointed out that an AV-150 would only supply air for 50 people. If they wanted to supply air for 1,500 people, They'd need several of the AV-150s or something a bit larger. He bought 30 AV-300s and said that would allow him to kick them in gradually, just supporting the number of people there.

Apparently Shelia had never met Salina. Or, maybe it was the fact that when I got on for the first time, I pulled out the Colt, cocked it, and told Shelia I dared her to run. Plus, I added a seat belt, just in case. Salina ran on me 3 times and I didn't fall off. In fact, my feet never came out of the stirrups. But, I believe my heart stopped 3 times. Sharon said Mr. Baker sold the horse, but I don't know that for a fact. It's a shame I don't have that ride on tape, we could all laugh.

"It's hot."

"I know dear, but you can stay in the house, move to the cavern or anything you want to do. We're ok as long as we stay out of the humidity."

"It's hot."

"You're repeating yourself, again. Turn the air a little lower and I'll put on a sweater."

"What day is it?"

"I'm not sure, maybe D-day +45."

"Huh?"

"Never mind. You don't have to carry my Nazi .32 anymore, how about a Walther PPK in .380?"

"Why do I have to carry a gun?"

"Because the Arkansas State Police issued you a CCW?"

And then, there was Bubba. It ended with, "Y'all take care, Bubba, hear?" I was learning the language, albeit slowly. So far I had learned 3 words: Bubba, y'all and hear. In that story, we bought a house. In this story, we live in a house, rent free. The advantage to renting, is: someone else mows the lawn.

Mind you, the conversation occurred after Hitler got the law through Congress and signed into law. She was looking for the guns and dealers were selling them as fast as they could be manufactured and then claiming it was old stock. Why? Because, for the 10,000th time, when guns are outlawed, only outlaws will have guns.

I love her speech, "I've loved two women in my life..."

The Bell (model 47) H-13 Sioux, with a crew of three, was one of the most popular light utility helicopters ever built. The bubble front job you saw on M*A*S*H. During Vietnam, it was replaced by the Bell UH-1 series Iroquois, better known as the "Huey". In Vietnam, the "Huey" was used extensively for Medevac and demonstrated, very convincingly, the lifesaving potential of rapid trauma evacuation. The mortality rate in Vietnam was less than 1 per 100 casualties as compared to 4.5 deaths per 100 casualties in World War II and 2.5 per 100 in Korea. While there were advancements in medical procedures, the preponderance of the success must be credited to the speed and volume with which the injured reached definitive medical care.

That created a problem; the American public had very high, probably unrealistic, expectation about people being killed in a war. In WW I, we had 53,402 battle deaths plus 63,114 non-battle deaths for a total of 116,546. In WW II, we had 291,557 plus 112,842 for a total of 405,399. In Korea, the numbers were 33,741 and 2,833 for a total of 36,574. Vietnam ran 47,424 plus 10,785 for a total of 58,209. The Gulf War ran 147 plus 382 for a total of 529. If you go back to the Revolutionary War and add them all up, the numbers are 653,708 plus 540,590 for a total of 1,194,198.

The doesn't count the Global War on Terror, and the numbers as of 30Sep06, totaled 3,040. Last time I looked, it was more than 3,700. I got so disgusted I stopped checking

the online fatality figures I checked every day when Derek was over there. Sorry, I don't have any figures yet on the 4th Mexican War and my figures on the Global War on Terror are suspect. For example, they don't include the deaths on 9/11.

"Hey."

"How did you get this number? It's supposed to be unlisted."

"Listen asshole, I have low friends in high places."

"Haven't we already used that line?"

"Huh?"

"So, tell me, kill any elephants yet?"

"Haven't seen any that weren't in a zoo or at a circus. How are you doing?"

"Well, I should say, 'same chit, different day,' but I won't. I've learned to ride a horse, an unnamed person came up with 180 LAWs and I have a driver's license, an extra class Ham license and a H1 Alpha Hummer."

"What color?"

"Black."

"Got one of everything and a few aftermarket items?"

"Yep."

"Figures. Come into some money?"

"Nope, but my kid did."

"Which one?"

"Actually both. Damon got the VA settlement and Derek got lucky, twice."

"I know about Damien."

"Damon, butthole."

"What did Derrick do, find a diamond?"

"Derek. How did you know? It was huge, and I mean HUGE. Mary took some of the money to a casino in Mississippi and had a winning streak. I'm not sure, but I suspect they had to close their doors."

"Gar-Bear, you magnificent SOB, I've read all your books."

"Wasn't that supposed to be Rommel?"

"Whoever."

"How's Robert?"

"Well, he's not so hot. This darned war with Mexico has him very concerned. It's not that far to the battle lines. However, we're not that far from Durango and if they get close, we're heading there."

"Do I remember right, he's 5 years older than you?"

"Shows every day of it too."

"It's a good thing we're not in Palmdale,"

"Really, why?"

"They overran it, didn't you hear?"

"No, I quit listening to the news when I ran out of Zoloft."

"How's your blood sugar?"

"Above dead. I don't check it, I just sweat a lot."

"Too high?"

"Either that or the humidity, it must be a jillion percent."

"Pure water is only 100%."

"You know what I mean. Probably gets to 98% some of the time. My weather station is set up at the cavern so I don't know."

"Cavern? Is that what you're using these days for a bomb shelter?"

"Derek and Mary are trying to outfit it for 1,500 people."

When Fiction Becomes Fact – Chapter 6

"Why?"

"Their relatives and most of the population of Flippin."

"Why?"

"I don't know, maybe that's how he plans to win friends and influence people."

"That's a familiar line."

"Yeah, Dale Carnegie, I think."

"From when we were kids?"

"My father took a class. I got a beating over that, let me tell you."

"Why?"

"He got a mechanical pencil that I took without permission and then Roger and I got into a fight over it and it got broke."

"So tell me, what don't you have? That's probably easier than asking what you do have."

"We don't have a tank."

"Why not?"

"I think that they sent them all down to the border to fight the wetbacks."

"They're only wetbacks if they cross a river. A lot of the border is as dry as a bone."

"Heard from Clarence?"

"Nope, you?"

"Not in a while."

"Damn, it's honey do time, again."

"Well, you have the number, don't be a stranger."

"Right, I call you after the war."

"Which war?"

Unfortunately when he was done talking, he was done talking. I was talking to an empty line. My phone said, 'blocked caller. Regardless, we moved and left no forwarding number, which stopped it for a while.

About the name, 'Fiddler's Green'. Written anonymously for the US cavalry, published in a 1923 US Cavalry Manual. It is still used in modern cavalry units to memorialize the deceased.

*Halfway down the trail to hell
In a shady meadow green,
Are the souls of all dead troopers camped
Near a good old-time canteen
And this eternal resting place
Is known as Fiddler's Green.*

*Marching past, straight through to hell,
The infantry are seen,
Accompanied by the Engineers,
Artillery and Marine,
For none but the shades of Cavalrymen
Dismount at Fiddlers' Green.*

*Though some go curving down the trail
To seek a warmer scene,
No trooper ever gets to Hell
Ere he's emptied his canteen,
And so rides back to drink again
With friends at Fiddlers' Green.*

*And so when man and horse go down
Beneath a saber keen,
Or in a roaring charge or fierce melee
You stop a bullet clean,
And the hostiles come to get your scalp,
Just empty your canteen,
And put your pistol to your head
And go to Fiddlers' Green.*

I like music, Derek is a Cavalry man and very traditional. I'd better back up and describe our tour of the ranch:

The roads in the area reminded me of those roller coasters that he always wanted me to go on with him back when he was a kid. He switched out with Mary in Branson, Missouri, before we crossed into Arkansas. She seemed a bit perturbed at the lack of Red

Diamond Iced Tea and growled about it as she got into the back of their 1999 Chevy Blazer.

“Why the switch, kid?” I asked at the time.

He grinned and said, “You’ll see.” And I did, too. South of Branson the roads turned into a continuous string of sharp corners, hills, and drop-offs. Even at reduced speeds Derek was making Sharon green around the gills, and Amy had her head hanging out the window in the next car back.

“Take it easy, son!” I snapped as we careened around another corner.

“That’s why we switched, Dad. Mary handles these corners much faster than I can.”

After around an hour we turned off onto a road that, if anything, was worse. It wound through a forest of post oak trees and down into a bit of a valley before we finally saw the gate. He brought us in through the big gate because of the overheads on the others.

“Hmm. What’s in the towers, Derek?” I asked.

“Better not to know right now, Dad. I’ll tell you when you learn who you can talk to.”

I saw a rifle barrel withdraw through a slit up near the top of the left tower, but no one else seemed to notice.

Past the gate, the woods finally thinned out enough for me to catch glimpses of a decent sized luxury development. The yards were all huge enough for there to be gardens out back, and every house seemed to have a garden. The front yards were all flower beds full of tulips, irises, daffodils, and literally hedged with roses.

“Wow, this is nice,” said Sharon.

“Thanks, Mom. We worked on it for a while before I was happy. Roses don’t do as well down here as I would like sometimes.” I still wasn’t used to Derek calling Sharon Mom. I don’t think that Mary was, either, from the grimace that she made.

“Who lives in the houses?” Sharon asked.

“Our family,” Derek replied. “Your house is up by ours.”

“House? I thought you said that we would be living in an apartment, Gary,” said Sharon.

“I thought that we were. How did you pay for this, son?”

“Thank Mary for that. She came over and asked me how to know if a rock was glass when we visited the Crater of Diamonds a couple of years ago. I said that if mud stuck

to it, it wasn't a diamond. She said that we had to go about five minutes later. I was mad about it until we were on the road and she showed me what she found."

"What, she found a diamond?"

"You could say that. Remember De Boers announcing that the largest diamond ever found was now the White Silence?"

"Yeah..." (I didn't)

"Mary found the White Silence, Sharon. Nearly 5000 carats of "Woohoo!", as they say. We still have some nice pieces from it after we cut it. Baby, could you show her your ring?" Mary held out her hand so that Sharon could see the one carat diamond nestled there beside an equally impressive ruby.

"Wow."

"Yep. I found the ruby, though. We visited Montana to look for sapphires and found that pretty thing, along with quite a few sapphires of various colors."

"So you paid for all of this with money from the diamond?"

"Not exactly. Mary made the rest of our fortune down in Tunica. She headed down there with her friends to lose a little money and have fun. Instead, she came back with certified cashier's checks from three different casinos with four more zeroes on them than she started with. Twenty-five thousand became a quarter of a billion dollars in one night because she kept on trying to lose all of her money to hide the fact that she had loaned a friend a few grand and not told me about it. Funny how things work out, though, isn't it?"

Sharon made a funny noise, kind of like a cross between a hiccup and a snort. Mary slapped Derek playfully on the arm. "You should have said yes when I asked," Mary said.

"Really? Where would we be then? Not here, getting ready to give everyone a quick tour."

"Speaking of tours, son..."

"Sorry, Dad. The house to the left of ours is yours. Ours is the big one with all the garages. The other big building in the complex is the activity center. We haven't finished pouring the foundations for the hospital yet, but it will be up and running in a year or so. The mini-mall you see between them is a mini-mall, strangely enough. You can shop there for anything you want so long as it is grown, raised, or made on the ranch. We have our own group of doctors, including some specialists, a dentist certified for oral surgery and orthodontia, and an eye doctor. We have our own pharmacy, too, with

enough stored to keep going for around ten years without re-supply. Deliveries for either are picked up in Mountain Home and brought in by our people.

“Over the hill is our ag complex. We grow pretty much everything we eat. All we go to town for is processed foods and luxury items, like crab legs. We raise enough to feed around five thousand people and sell the surplus through Youbetcha Producers, Inc.

“Further on, we have a few industrial buildings. We make our own wool, flax, and cotton based textiles on site. We trade our surplus for the synthetics we can’t make. We can also make our own rope, and I’m trying out something new with mulberries to see if we can add another natural fiber to both production lines.” Mary groaned, like she had been through all of this before.

“What’s the capacity on that water tower?” I asked.

“Around 100,000 gallons. We have our own separate water supply here. We also have our own powerhouse, but we are still tied into the local electrical company so that we can sell the surplus energy for around 10 cents a kilowatt hour.”

Sharon turned to Dad. “This must be like a wet dream for you, Gary.”

“Not exactly, because he didn’t tell me anything about it.” I was kind of pissed, too.

“Don’t feel left out. We didn’t tell anyone about it until they moved here. We still don’t. The books are all scrupulously clean so that the government doesn’t feel like visiting, and we have a standing agreement with satellite companies to make sure that they don’t show any recent photos of us.”

“How did you manage that?”

Derek grinned. “I bought a sizable interest in a company that sells them all a certain widget. No one else makes that widget and splicing out any new imagery is one of the hidden terms of the purchase contracts. One company tried to question that little proviso and wound up with their parts on backorder for a year straight.”

“Ahh, the power of the dollar.”

o

I've always been fussy about my name, how hard is it to correctly pronounce Ott? One would think nobody had ever heard of Mel Ott. Those that know his name usually get it right. And, no, for the 1 millionth time, I'm not related to Mel Ott. If we could do it over, we'd have named the boys, Bill and Bob, nobody gets their first or last name right.

What do you think of Youbetcha Ranch? For all I care, the folks back at Moon Shadows can empty the shelter and keep the equipment. I know how Martin Luther King felt when

he said, "Free at last." Hey, maybe they all hiding in the shelter, Patti didn't answer her phone when Sharon called.

I had boy toys running out of my ears: most every gun I ever wanted, a horse who didn't hate me and a H1 Alpha Hummer. A tank Platoon would be nice, but Derek was in an Artillery unit and wasn't planning on reenlisting. They had money to burn, why not, it wasn't worth much. Derek had new in the box M14 magazines and they weren't type 57. He took my 590A1 to a gunsmith and had it upgraded to include a Surefire LED flashlight and a new stock with a pistol grip and extra shells stored inside the folding stock.

He thought I had my Beretta Stampedes, but not the genuine article. We now had 4, NIB, Colt SAA with barrel lengths ranging from 7½" down to a Sheriff's Model at 3". The Laredoan was set up for a 7½" in the right hand holster and a 4¾" in the cross draw holster. They weren't the Cowboy model with the transfer bar, either, these were genuine 3rd generation Colt SAA that had been through the Colt shop. He had both Cowboy ammo and regular ammo. Did I say real Ivory grips? Derek and I were both fans of George S. Patton, thus Mother of Pearl would never do; no, I've never been to New Orleans.

John Wayne turned over in his grave. The firearms were .44-40 caliber. He was fussy about some things, and came up with a Big Looped model 92 Winchester. Not your everyday gun. I didn't know whether to cry or take the carbine to bed with me. It was part of the special collection of 92 Winchesters authorized by the Duke's estate. He was also practical, I ended up with the lesser model rifle, not that fancy one.

The .44-40 is a 10mm round and the .45 Colt is an 11mm round. I stuck my Colts back in the Mexican holsters and switched to the Laredoan when I rode. Otherwise, I carried my PT1911, openly.

If we're going to have this war, let's get on with it, the waiting is killing me, literally; I'm not that young. The cavern furnishings were finished with time to spare. I suggested we put the 135kw in the cavern for backup. Mary said it would be a good place to keep it out of sight. I'm going to have to explain strategic reallocation to her, someday.

I wasn't the only beneficiary of Derek and Mary's largesse. Sharon made out like a bandit and Derek gave Amy a job in the office having something to do with computers. El Bandito had every sewing gadget she could ever use. She could spend the remainder of her life doing nothing but making quilts. Derek even had a job for Lorrie, cleaning 3 houses, hers, ours and Amy's. And, I wasn't happy.

Jachin and Boaz were the name of the two pillars that stood in the porch of Solomon's Temple. The two pillars are part of the symbolism attached to the freemasons' representation of Solomon's Temple. If you chose to read that, you will learn that Hiram I of Lebanon provided the cedar used in the construction of the first temple, thus Cedars of Lebanon. Not bad, for a Methodist... If it's in Wiki, it can't be a secret. Or, maybe I just know where to look for what.

I asked myself, "Did anything good come out of Hitler getting elected?"

I'm worried, I answered, "Of course, she got rid of Chertoff."

"Anything else?"

"No, not that I can think of." Lately, I'd found myself talking to myself. That's a symptom, I just can't remember what it's a symptom of.

George had been right. He said, "Whatever it [his legacy] is, I'm not going to be around to see it. I hope it is that George Bush fought the war, he laid out a strategy for America and her allies to ultimately defeat these ideologues; he recognized the nature of the enemy" and put in place measures to deal with the threat, he said. Does that mean he's moving to Paraguay? We never heard, maybe he did and is behind that Mexican invasion.

o

Things were truly beyond my control, I hated that. However, in the good old days children took care of their parents in their twilight years, maybe it was a good thing. For sure, we could have just about anything we wanted, except for a Platoon of M1A1 Abrams tanks. Yes, it's me, TOM, a man who has always controlled his destiny in his stories. This time, we were along for the ride.

A ranch of some 6,500 acres, even if it's low mountains and river bottomland divided equally between post oak (*Quercus stellata*) forest and cleared hay meadows, requires a lot of work. Unemployment had fallen sharply in the area. That included farm hands, that security force and the factory workers. With livestock, they had to plow some of that river bottomland and plant crops. They also had an enormous garden area, maybe 10 acres.

It was evident to even the casual observer that Youbetcha Ranch was intended to be nearly totally self-sufficient. They didn't make everything we used, but if it was important, they probably stored it by the boxcar load. He liked quilted Northern tissue, I liked Charmin, but it beats the catalog or leaves. No doubt some of those things were stored in the secret warehouse, along with who knows what else. The tour was supposed to be a full tour. It was, as far as it went. I happened on the warehouse building one day when I risked going riding. That seat belt is good; given a choice, I might opt for a 0/0 ejection seat.

I was losing weight, sweating it off, no doubt. This was a good thing; it allowed me more control over my diabetes. All is not lost; I still control what I eat. Especially so because we brought all of our own food and didn't have to draw from central stores. I noticed a change of attitude, in me. Couldn't pin it down, maybe not taking all the drugs I used to,

like Plavix and Zoloft was the reason. OTOH, maybe I was just getting old. A good 3rd choice might be senility or Alzheimer's.

Derek handed me off to his family doctor soon after we moved in and I had to hand it to the kid. He could sure pick winners. The doc listened to me, read my files carefully, and figured out a way to switch out most of my prescriptions with a single pill that I took once a day. I didn't recognize it at all and looked it up in the PDR, but it wasn't there. The doc winked and said that it was made locally from Yoakum berries. Ha ha. I wouldn't take it for a few days, but when I passed lousy on my way to bedridden, Sharon made me take it again. What do you know, it worked like a charm. I felt younger than I had in years and my depression pretty much disappeared. After a month, the doc said that my blood sugar was starting to regulate itself again and that I should try living without the insulin. It was rough for a little while and then it smoothed out nicely. For the first time in years I actually felt that I could give my dad a good run for his money in longevity and feel better than he did doing it.

Flea once called me a crusty old curmudgeon. That fit, even better now than when he said it. Curmudgeon is defined as a bad-tempered, difficult, cantankerous person. Do you know what is behind most control freaks? Basic insecurity and a low sense of self-worth. To allow for how they feel, they feel it necessary to take control.

My sons might have inherited some of my poorer qualities, but since I didn't raise them, it was more likely they inherited Joyce's. I avoid, generally, to speak ill of the dead. Generally means, not always. However, I've mellowed some in that regard (Joyce) and recall I once loved her so I avoid saying much.

As to my weight loss, I had a goal of getting down to 145 pounds. I done it when I was out running around a dozen years ago and could probably do it again. I added Centrum Silver too, I needed all the help I could get. In tech school in the Air Force, I achieved that; the other times I did were named Karen J., Kathy I. and severe illness.

o

There being 2 sides to every coin, not counting the edge, the upside was our circumstances; and, the downside was our location, tornado alley. Derek had said he didn't expect the things he outlined to result in a GTW. I didn't agree, if anything they seemed to be leading up to just that. Not if, just when and what (NIWW). For someone who didn't believe it, his behavior implied the opposite.

East is East, and West is West, and never the twain shall meet. The culture of the West (Europe and the Americas) will always be very different from that of the East (Asia). (Twain means "two.") This saying is part of the refrain of *The Ballad of East and West*, a poem by Rudyard Kipling. He might just have been right, excluding the battlefield. Regardless of who started it, Islam was out to get us. My sources said that the Saudis had nukes and a missile delivery system. Iran should have the bomb now and probably war-

heads for their IRBMs. Israel did and so did Pakistan and India. Most of the preceding pages were aimed at making that obvious. Only the blind couldn't see that.

And, thinking about my conversation with Ron, he was right. For sure illegal, but only wetbacks if they crossed the Rio Grande or some other river. Wetback is not a derogatory name, it's descriptive only. I was corrected for calling them raghead, the rag is more like a sheet, so, they're sheet heads (choice of spelling optional), unless they're rich enough to afford towels.

Back in the Air Force, when we first moved to the new smaller barracks, I had 2 roommates, a Mormon and a Jehovah's Witness. Can you imagine that pair being housed with a drunk? The Mormon was ok, he only drank Dr. Pepper. Looking at the can recently, I think they must have changed the recipe. OTOH, Porf got in trouble in Phase II of basic training over his 5 o'clock shadow. Thereafter, he sent all of his clothes to the cleaners (extra heavy starch on the uniforms, light starch on his drawers, t-shirts and socks) and kept a razor at work so he could shave over the lunch hour, 2 passes with one of those old Gillette double edged razors with a new blade (he shaved 5 times a day). Both were very nice guys; with my experiences in life, it was inevitable that I end up writing. What do you mean, an edge? This story doesn't have an edge, I'm just telling it like I see it, for a change.

I was waiting for someone to say, 'lights... camera... action'. Must have seen too many movies, it didn't go down that way. Let's review:

D-day -14: India sent two divisions to the northernmost corner of Paki-Indian border in response to Pakistani maneuvers.

D-day -10: China accused India of border incursions across Sino-Indian border by recently moved divisions. Issued ultimatum to India to recall both divisions.

D-day -9: China mobilized around 60% of the PLA to Sino-Indian border.

D-day -7: US issued official protest of Chinese mobilization to UN Security Council.

D-day -4: After 72 hour marathon session of the Security Council, PRC withdraws from UN.

D-day -3: US publicly denounced Chinese actions as "overly aggressive" and invited all parties to negotiations in Diego Garcia.

D-day -2: China accused US of complicity in alleged Indian incursion.

D-day -1: OPEC declared US "unfriendly" to member nations. OPEC announced complete oil embargo on United States, India, and all British commonwealth nations. Prospective members Ecuador, Mexico, et al. also embargoed all shipments of petroleum products, from crude oil to refined.

D-day: China and Pakistan invaded India in a joint campaign. Surprisingly conventional, the fighting reached the outskirts of Mumbai within 96 hours.

D-day +1: The United States declared a total embargo of all import/export items from OPEC nations and China.

What didn't get said was that China and Pakistan had as many casualties from snake bites as from bullets, the Indians revered Gandhi. If the tactics of the Pakis and China-men were cowboy in nature, we had another round of cowboys and Indians.

Ask yourself, what was Iran doing all this time? Putting finishing touches on their new nukes. Why hadn't the Israelis taken out Iran's nukes? The price of fuel was too high and they hated to spend the money. The truth is stranger than fiction. And my cheek hurts from my tongue pushing on it.

Only 7.2 percent of Americans believe China represents a military threat to the United States, and even fewer – 2.3 percent – believe the issue of Taiwan could strain relations with China. China's occupation of Tibet ranked a meager 2 percent. More than half of those polled – 53.7 percent – said they have a somewhat favorable opinion of the Chinese people, but only 4.8 percent have similar feelings for the Chinese government.

When asked whether China is a threat to US national security, an economic threat to the United States or an economic partner and an ally, 21.7 percent of respondents said China is a threat to national security, 59.8 percent said China was more of an economic threat to the United States, and 5.7 percent believe China to be an economic partner and an ally.

Regarding China's continuing military buildup, 29.7 percent said they were very concerned while 2.9 percent showed no concern at all. As far as China's threat to US national security, 18.7 percent believe the communist country poses a great threat, while a minority – 3.7 percent – see no threat at all from China.

Although Taiwan barely registered as an issue of contention between the two nuclear powers, about half of the nearly 6,000 Americans polled – 53.5 percent – believe the United States has a responsibility to defend Taiwan, should it be attacked by China, while 36 percent disagree. About 45 percent of Americans believe China is a threat to stability in East Asia, and 63.8 percent fear China's space program.

Regarding the war on terror, only a tiny minority – 1.8 percent – of Americans believe China is a valid partner in the global war on terror; 18.2 percent somewhat agree, but the majority, 63.6 percent, disagree.

My TV started to make that awful sound and I checked the screen.

This is an Emergency Action Notification requested by the White House. All broadcast stations will follow activation procedures in the EAS Operating Handbook for a national level emergency. The President of the United States or her representative will shortly deliver a message over the Emergency Alert System.

Oh, oh. "Sharon, come watch TV." She must have been in the middle of something, she wasn't happy.

Stayed tuned from a message for the Director of Homeland Security, Charles Schumer.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with a heavy heart that I announce a surprise attack on Israel. Casualties have been high and in accordance with the sixty plus year policy of this country with respect to Israel, the President has ordered a retaliatory strike using both of our remaining Ohio class SSBNs against the Middle Eastern countries involved in this affair.

Not to make things worse, but China and Pakistan have failed to reach an agreement over the division of India and alarms have been raised signaling a possible nuclear confrontation between the combatants. We will bring you further information as soon as the FSB shares it with us.

When Fiction Becomes Fact – Chapter 7

"Two submarines? I thought we had 14?"

"We do, but they can't fight because Congress nixed the Reliable Replacement Warhead. If the 2 subs are fully equipped, that's 384 warheads, more than enough to take care of the Middle East."

"But, what about the Russians and Chinese?"

"The Chinese are busy trying to avoid a war with Pakistan. The Paki warheads are the Chinese designed warhead, courtesy of Dr. Abdul Q. Khan."

"But, what about Russia?"

"What about Russia?"

"Didn't you say they were building new missile subs? Ones with a very good missile?"

"I did. I wrote about it in several stories. People can't claim they weren't warned."

"Will they attack us?"

"You'd better hope they don't."

"Why?"

"Hitlery will invite the UN in to clean up the mess."

"Foreign soldiers on US soil? I don't think so."

"We already have foreign soldiers on US soil, and apparently they're winning. Did you ever get in touch with Patti?"

"No, now the lines are down."

"Ron said they overran Palmdale."

"Who overran Palmdale?"

"The invaders."

"Aliens?"

"In a manner of speaking but no spacecraft were involved. It was more like 360,000 screaming Chinese, 200,000 Mexicans, and tens of thousands of other Central/South American soldiers, according to Derek."

"What are we going to do?"

"Damned if I know, they didn't say, Duck and Cover. You can do anything you want, dear; I'm going to clean and oil my guns and make sure all my magazines are fully loaded."

"Do I have to carry the Walther in the house?"

"Only if you want to."

"What about you?"

"I have the Nazi .32 in an ankle holster, the PT1911 in a 1942 M-3 Tanker shoulder holster and am wearing two of the Colt revolvers."

"How do you walk with that much weight?"

"Set the wheelchair on low and chug along."

"No rifles?"

"Only in the rifle rack on the rear."

"Do you like the booties I crocheted to keep the muzzles clean?"

"Yes; but, I'd have preferred a different color."

"What's wrong with pink?"

o

Once an ICBM is launched, it cannot be recalled by the launching party, so a different strategy had to be created by both the US and USSR. This led to two primary options. One option, "retaliation after ride-out" would require the second-strike nation to wait until after they were attacked to launch their missiles. Some portion of the nuclear arsenal would inevitably be destroyed in such an attack. This led to both superpowers investing heavily in survivable basing modes for their nuclear forces, including hardened underground missile silos for ICBMs and submarine-launched ballistic missiles.

The other choice was "launch on warning" – launching nuclear missiles before the other side's missiles could destroy them. With the invention of the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System in the early 1960s, the possibility of America detecting launches of Soviet

missiles became real. In the 1970's, this technology came to fruition after the deployment of space-based launch detection technology on both sides.

Once both countries had the ability to detect ballistic missile launches, both countries could, at least theoretically, implement a "launch on warning" strategy. It is a popular misconception that either or both superpowers actually adopted this as a standing policy. While neither country would publicly confirm or deny that they had a launch on warning policy in effect, it is likely that they did not. There are practical reasons why this policy was not feasible. The primary concern was that a false warning could easily lead to a global nuclear war (GTW). There were several false alarms on each side during the Cold War, and none of them led to a nuclear exchange.

Even if the false alarm problem were to be set aside, a practical launch on warning policy would still be too difficult to implement. Although it takes about 30 minutes for a wave of ICBMs to reach their targets, that does not mean the President of the targeted country has 30 minutes to decide what to do about the attack, for the following reasons.

The side that launches a well-coordinated first strike can pin down the retaliatory forces of the other country by launching a barrage of submarine based missiles from close range, in a fast "depressed trajectory" mode, and exploding the warheads every minute or so at high altitudes over the ICBM fields of the targeted country, using a technique called X-ray pin-down. This makes it impossible to launch the ICBMs without damaging their navigation systems for as long as the high-altitude detonations continue. This buys extra time for the wave of first strike ICBMs to complete their flights and hit their targets, which are the ICBMs that have been pinned down in their silos. This greatly shortens the effective warning time for the President to make his decision to launch a retaliatory strike while still under attack. It takes a few minutes to confirm launch detection from early warning systems, and another few minutes for ICBMs to complete their launch procedures, and then a bit more for them to clear the region of X-ray pin-down, and that squeezes the decision time from both ends of the schedule.

This meant that launch on warning was regarded as an extremely dangerous policy with enormous practical problems to implement. That's why both superpowers deployed their nuclear forces in survivable basing modes, to maintain a credible deterrent of residual retaliatory forces that would survive a first strike. This gives military leaders the more realistic option of riding out the attack, assessing which forces remain operational, and deciding what range of retaliatory options are available.

There are nuclear strategies that fall short of massive retaliation. One of these is the proportional response. If one country launches one missile (accidentally or otherwise), a proportional response of one missile may be chosen. It's impossible to know for sure what the outcome would have been had one of the superpowers launched a small number of ICBMs at the other, but it's feasible that such an event could have led to all-out nuclear war.

The strategy of launch on warning is largely an academic one today, due to the deployment of submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs). Both the United States and Russia operate a fleet of submarines carrying nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles. The purpose of these submarines is to hide in the vastness of the ocean until needed, and then launch their missiles. They allow either country the ability to launch a second-strike, regardless of what is happening at home.

o

The real problem was that the US was transitioning from a Republic to a Democracy. That limited how long the country would remain the US of A. History says, 200 years, max. Let's talk about another subject while we're waiting for the Duck and Cover message – Imperialism.

Imperialism developed in the early 19th century after the Industrial Revolution when the western nations began to take control of other non-industrialized nations and colonies. The Age of Imperialism usually refers to the Old Imperialism period starting from 1860, when major European states started colonizing the other continents. The term Imperialism was initially coined in the mid to late 1500s to reflect the policies of countries such as Britain and France's expansion into Africa, and the Americas.

In the twentieth century the term imperialism also grew to apply to any historical or contemporary instance of a greater power acting, or being perceived to be acting, at the expense of a lesser power. Imperialism is therefore not only used to describe frank empire-building policies, such as those of the Romans, the Spanish or the British, but is also used controversially and/or disparagingly, for example by both sides in communist and anti-communist propaganda, or to describe actions of the United States since the American Presidency's acquisition of overseas territory during the Spanish-American War, or in relation to the United States' present-day position as the world's only superpower.

The term empire has two meanings. In one sense, the US is not an empire, because it lacks a legal emperor, king, despot, or other hereditary head of state. In another sense, the US satisfies the definition of an empire, because it possesses sovereignty over territories which it has not annexed as states, such as Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, US Virgin Islands, and in the past the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Cuba, Occupied Japan, Occupied Germany, Okinawa and the Philippines. As of 2006 the US maintains over 702 bases in 135 of the 195 sovereign independent nations of the world.

Controversy exists over whether the US consistently behaves like an empire across the world, and if it would be accurate to describe it as such. The term imperialism was coined in the mid-1800s to describe empire-like behavior, carried out by states which might or might not be formal empires. The Oxford English Dictionary gives three definitions of imperialism:

1. An imperial system of government; the rule of an emperor, esp. when despotic or arbitrary.
2. The principle or spirit of empire; advocacy of what are held to be imperial interests.
3. Used disparagingly. In Communist writings: the imperial system or policy of the Western powers. Used conversely in some Western writings: the imperial system or policy of the Communist powers.

Debate exists over whether the US is an empire in the politically-charged sense of the latter two definitions. Some have suggested that this use of the term is an abuse of language. Historian Stuart Creighton Miller argues that the overuse and abuse of the term imperialism makes it nearly meaningless as an analytical concept. Historian Archibald Paton Thornton wrote that "imperialism is more often the name of the emotion that reacts to a series of events than a definition of the events themselves. Where colonization finds analysts and analogies, imperialism must contend with crusaders for and against." Political theorist Michael Walzer argues that the term hegemony is better than empire to describe the US' role in the world.

The only thing I'm not sure about is that despot bit. OTOH, I want to be fair, so I'll give her the benefit of the doubt, just this once. It might be appropriate to talk about the American Dream, here, but I wrote that story, it was number 35, this is number 53. Still, I have to ask, "What right did the US have to tell the Iraqis that they had to have a democracy?" Yes, we defeated Saddam, but I still think we failed to defeat the Iraqis.

Think about this... Many years after the fall of the Roman Empire with the most powerful Army in the World, we ended up with Mussolini's Italian Army. Day and Night difference. The Romans had Legions. I belong to the American Legion, does that count?

o

So far, I hadn't found out any more about the towers named after The Two Towers (think Lord of the Rings). Equally distressing was the lack of information about the warehouse that he hadn't admitted existed. He called Central Stores, 'the mini-mall'. I assumed that someone else on the ranch had heard the broadcast, it was on every TV channel.

"Hi, Dad."

"What did you make of Schumer's announcement?"

"What announcement?"

"The one that said World War III was about to begin."

"Did he say Duck and Cover?"

"Nah, he left that out. Are we the only people who watch TV during the day?"

"No one else has time, Dad."

"Ok, IIRC, he said that some Middle Eastern countries attacked Israel and we were retaliating with our two remaining boomers. He went on to say that China and Pakistan might get into a nuclear confrontation. Say, when did we start getting our intelligence from the Russians?"

"Dad, didn't you see *The Hunt for Red October*?"

"Several times, why?"

"Remember what Captain Bart Mancuso said?"

"He said a lot of things."

"He said, *Central Intelligence Agency... Now, there's a contradiction in terms.*"

"Funny, I don't remember that from the book, but my memory isn't that good anymore."

"You know how close George and Vladimir were, maybe they struck a deal. I've got to go and put us on alert."

"What level?"

"DEFCON 2, we'll wait for the missiles to fly to go to 1."

o

Factoid adapted from Global Security:

The M1A1 series, produced from 1985 through 1993, replaced the M1's 105mm main gun with a 120mm gun and incorporated numerous other enhancements, including an improved suspension, a new turret, increased armor protection, and a nuclear-chemical-biological protection system. The newer M1A2 series includes all of the M1A1 features plus a commander's independent thermal viewer, an independent commander's weapon station, position navigation equipment, and a digital data bus and radio interface unit providing a common picture among M1A2s on the battlefield.

In lieu of new production, the Army was upgrading approximately 1,000 older M1 tanks to the M1A2 configuration. The Army also initiated a modification program for the M1A2 to enhance its digital command and control capabilities and to add the second generation forward looking infrared (FLIR) sights to improve the tank's fightability and lethality during limited visibility. This system enhancement program will be fielded in the 2000 time frame concurrently with the M2A3 Bradley and other advanced digital systems. The initial M1A2 fielding to the First Cavalry Division, Ft. Hood, TX, is underway. The Army

will continue to field M1A2s to the CONUS contingency corps and other first to fight units.

The M1s are drawn from the bone yard and shipped to a factory setting to be upgraded. The Crusader was a piece of self-propelled artillery that got scrapped because of the cost. It was to be the source of replacement engines for the Abrams tank. It used the Honeywell LV100-5 turbine engine. In the ensuing years, Honeywell et al. improved the engine to deliver more horsepower, hence more speed, using much less fuel. The new engine was the LV50-2. LV50-2 is the gas turbine that is developed for FCS. Its power density kw/weight ratio is 1.462kw/kg to 1.9 kw/kg, much higher than the AGT1500 0.98kw/kg. LV50-2 is derived from LV100-5 (develop for potential re-engine program for M1A2 and M1A1), BUT LV50-2 has a much higher power to weight ratio, LV100-5 power to weight ratio is ONLY 1.07kw/kg (a bit higher than AGT1500 but far below LV50-2) If LV100-5 only has a power to weight ratio of 1.07kw/kg (1118.5kw/1045.5kg),

The German's (Rheinmetall Corporation) manufacture our 120mm guns. Our guns are L44 (caliber), but the German's recently fielded a L55 (caliber) cannon. (The caliber of a gun is barrel length, not diameter, i.e. 55 times 120mm.) The armor used on our tanks is Chobham spaced armor (ceramic blocks set in resin between layers of conventional armor) however the Challenger 2 has better armor than the Abrams. Side note: there is more to that armor than conventional armor and ceramics, but if I told you what it is, I'd have to ... the Abrams has been using Depleted Uranium (DU) armor since 1988. Hey it was supposed to be secret! The British got their upgraded Chobham armor from the US.

Further M1A2 improvements, called the System Enhancement Program (SEP), are underway to enhance the tank's digital command and control capabilities and to improve the tank's fightability and lethality. The M1A2SEP (System Enhancement Package), is the digital battlefield centerpiece for Army XXI. It is the heavy force vehicle that will lead Armor into the next century and transition the close combat mission to the Future Combat System (FCS). The M1A2SEP is an improved version of the M1A2. It contains numerous improvements in command and control, lethality and reliability. The M1A2 System Enhanced Program is an upgrade to the computer core that is the essence of the M1A2 tank. The SEP upgrade includes improved processors, color and high resolution flat panel displays, increased memory capacity, user friendly Soldier Machine Interface (SMI) and an open operating system that will allow for future growth. Major improvements include the integration of the Second Generation Forward Looking Infrared (2nd Gen FLIR) sight, the Under Armor Auxiliary Power Unit (UAAPU) and a Thermal Management System (TMS).

On paper, an M1A3 Abrams has the latest version of the LV100-5, the LV50-2 1,800shp engine, the L55 gun, the improved Chobham armor and a cross between the SEP sighting system and the one used in the Leclerc, but better than both. Your starting point to build one is to acquire the parts from the various vendors mentioned. Then, you have your mechanics and engineers convert a Platoon of worn out M1s into a Platoon of

M1A3s. Which you couldn't do except for the fact that there is no satellite coverage of your place.

Why only one Platoon? Several reasons including cost. After the first Platoon was done, if you were satisfied with the result, you could go through the same process to assemble more. They don't ship tank ammo in a CONEX either, so there's the matter of contacting Joe. In this case, time wasn't your friend. For all I know, the Army has the same idea and has a secret project developing a M1A3 MBT. If they don't, they should; and, if they did, I'm equally sure that Hitlerly put the kibosh on it. Tanks have guns and she says she going to get the guns. Beech!

o

When we went to DEFCON 1, I suddenly learned what that secret warehouse was all about. Was I ever in for a surprise. It had an indoor firing range, a Platoon of M1A3 tanks (I didn't realize that until he explained) several tons of tank ammo, loads of spare parts, plus storage just like I'd imagined. I'll let Derek explain:

“Well, Dad, my favorite investment since the White Silence has always been General Dynamics Land Systems. It wasn't about money, either; I lost around 10% of my investment since SHE was elected POTUS to defense cutbacks. No, I loved my investment because they learned what kind of field experience I had and actually asked me for opinions.

“Improvement 1: a new armor package.

“GDLS took lessons learned from the Middle East, blended them with some data from acquired competitor files, shook well, and applied the new principles to the M1A3. They even came up with a technical bulletin and kits for field upgrades to the armor package to bring deployed tanks up to A3 standards without the boat ride. One misdirected shipment later, I had four kits and one very confused looking master welder.

“The new package cut out half of the base armor thickness and replaced it with titanium facing featuring numerous threaded bolts. Those bolts allowed our mechanics to attach the rest of the package, a huge block of the latest laminated armor. Much of the steel plate armor on the upper surfaces was replaced with upgraded titanium steel twice as thick, and something very new called CERA (cellular explosive reactive armor) on every surface possible. CERA followed the same basic principles of common explosive reactive armor except that it removed the risk of one block triggering the next block over and removing the protection of both. It still couldn't be used in close proximity to dismounted infantry, but it worked wonders against most penetrators.

“Add in something experimental like an active broadband guidance dazzler, and you wound up with an overall defensive improvement of 87%.

“Improvement 2: A new primary weapon package.

“We added the L55 120mm cannon in a mount that added 10 degrees of maximum elevation. We also replaced the ballistics computer with something newer and more robust, updated the software package, and put a fully stabilized improved CROWS II system on for the commander’s M2HB. The loader got a powered mount for his M240, too, and all machine guns wound up with a much greater ready ammo capacity. Finally, the turret hydraulics system was completely rebuilt and augmented with electrical booster servos for a 360 degree rotation time of 4 seconds, nearly a 50% improvement.

“Overall offensive improvement rounded out to 128%, with a new maximum effective range of roughly five miles due to the lack of ballistic solutions in the computer.

“Improvement 3: More power.

“The new power plant, coupled with a new under-armor auxiliary generator, allowed us to govern the maximum speed at a whopping 100 kilometers per hour. Classified improvements to the basic design had also resulted in the M161 series track shoes. For the first time in the platform’s history the risk of track fire was not much higher than the risk that, say, a regular car tire would burst into flames while driving.

“Overall automotive improvement was 40%, with an increase in range to 400 miles of operation on a tank of fuel.

“Improvement 4: Any part of the TUSK package not included earlier was added.

“Now, for the bad news. For all these improvements, the M1A3 as built was still very problematic to transport by aircraft; unable to be deployed by air drop; expensive to build (\$4.6 million by conversion, \$5.2 million new); and very expensive to maintain (roughly \$95 per hour of peacetime operation). The Pentagon reviewed the design and rejected it for military service but exercised their legal right to prevent GDLS from selling the package to foreign interests, wholly or in any part.

“So what did I do to help cover all those losses? I purchased all of the upgrade packages they had produced, 14, their official inventory of record. I also bought every last spare part I could get. Thus, GDLS stayed in business and I got enough spares to keep my new museum pieces running for many years.

“Speaking of the Pentagon, I wish to express my mingled regret and horror that they didn’t listen to we battleship nuts. I also wish to express my deepest sympathy to the families of the thousands of brave sailors lost in the battle of Bengal Bay.

“In the 40s the Navy decided from lessons learned that since the aircraft carrier was superior in most respects to the battleship that the battleship was therefore obsolete. This was an understandable mistake, given the wealth of data available on the shortcomings of the battleship fleet during WWII. Most of the battleships in Pearl Harbor were built to Washington Treaty standards or as close to them as possible, making it possible that

the battle cruiser HMS Hood out displaced most battleships by 10,000 tons or more at the outbreak of hostilities. For those who don't know, battle cruisers are smaller, faster, equally armed but lightly armored versions of battleships. The Soviet Union did not take the same approach as we did during the Cold War. They eventually built a guided missile nuclear powered battle cruiser class, the Kirov class, and scared the bejeezus out of American surface ship crews for several years.

“The principle that we missed in the race to modernize the Navy was that lesser navies, unable to put 100,000 ton displacement super carriers in the water, might just build lesser vessels to modern standards. Thus, the obsolete classes (heavy cruisers and up) could in fact become our primary targets.

“China followed the same ideas as the now-defunct Soviet Navy when they began their secret building program. Only one difference: they came up with some effective helicopter, light, and fleet carriers, the first non-NATO power to do it on their own since Imperial Japan.

I would like to say that our attempts to raid the PRC supply ships were an unabashed success. Instead, I wept openly when I learned of the casualty lists.

USS Abraham Lincoln: Sunk with all hands.

USS Nimitz: Sunk with heavy loss of life. Survivors primarily captured by PRC destroyer crews.

USS Enterprise: Sunk with all hands.

USS Carl Vinson: Heavily damaged and incapable of flight operations. Heavy casualties.

Ticonderoga class cruisers lost: 8, Damaged: 1

Arleigh Burke class destroyers lost: 13, Damaged: 1

Oliver Hazard Perry class frigates lost: 6, Damaged: 0

“Most common cause of damage to ships: surface-to-surface anti-ship cruise missiles. Number of ships lost to this cause: 14, including USS Nimitz. Most destructive cause of damage to ships: naval artillery fire in 406mm caliber. Number of ships lost to this cause: 8, including USS Enterprise and USS Abraham Lincoln. All but one of the ships sunk by naval gunfire exploded catastrophically within 20 minutes of the first hit scored, and all ships sunk by naval gunfire were engaged at not less than 30 and not more than 50 nautical miles range.”

Total casualties: 30,197 killed or missing. (91% of crew complements on engaged ships; no non-combat ships were present during the engagement.)

When Fiction Becomes Fact – Chapter 8

Enemy casualties: unknown, but less than anticipated.

Translation: we got our gray-painted butts kicked by a second rate navy. Yeah, I cried real tears for those brave souls we lost in Bengal.

One of them was my brother in law aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln.

To continue with the tour...

“Hey Dad.”

“Sit down, kiddo. You look like hell. Have a cuppa.”

“Thanks, Dad.”

“Mary get to sleep?”

“Yeah, after Doc gave her something. I think that it helps that every flag in sight is at half-mast. At least they respect the dead around here. In Chicago there were celebrations by a couple of groups over the ‘clear warning sign from God that homosexuality is bad’.”

“Big?”

“They were when they started dancing around outside Great Lakes Naval Station.”

“Oh, chit.”

“Yeah. I think the nation lost another few hundred swabbies to the slammer after the police broke up the riot. 31 dead, all civilian. One of them was supposedly sodomized with his own protest sign.”

“That ought to piss off Hitlery.”

“Yep. The chief of station has been relieved pending investigation, and the Navy didn’t need the extra heat. The CNO is already busy explaining himself to Congress over the casualty lists.”

Derek didn’t say much for a while. He just sat and rubbed his eyes.

“Penny for your thoughts, pal.”

“I was just thinking about where this leaves us.”

"I would say that we were where all sinners wind up, but the humidity is too high."

"Very funny. What did you pull down off of the web?"

"Nothing unexpected. The doomsday clock got reset this morning."

"To where?"

"3 seconds to midnight."

Derek whistled. "Has it ever been that close?"

"Actually, closer. In '47, it went to 3 minutes to midnight and in '53 when we exploded the H bomb, it went to 2 minutes. Despite the Cuban Missiles Crisis, it went from 7 minutes to 12 minutes in '63. In '81 it went to 4 minutes and in '84 to 3. Still, the last change to 5 minutes was over Global Climate Change. Until this one, of course."

"Why over Global Climate Change?"

"What causes wars? Is famine anywhere near the top of your list? If it isn't, it should be."

"I see..."

o

"Good morning, Dad. You awake?"

"Oh, is it morning? I should get some sleep."

Derek looked just like his mother for a moment. He was wearing the same look of disapproval she used to give me. "How old are you, Dad?"

"Save the lecture, pal, I'm a grownup too. Besides, you never assigned someone to watch the night shift."

"Damon does that. He's up anyway."

"Oh? Thanks for telling me. I got a lot of sleep last night because you did."

"Point taken, Dad. Go get some sleep."

"You come in here just to tell me that?"

"Well, no, but you need to sleep now."

"I'm up already, Derek! I have too much coffee in me right now to sleep, and those pills that Doc gave me won't let me sleep during daylight, anyway."

"He told me there wasn't any caffeine in them."

"There isn't, as far as I know. My bedroom window doesn't have enough curtains to block out the sun, and it has to be dark for me to get to sleep. They make my eyes sensitive to sunlight."

"No chit? Sorry, Dad."

"Never mind that, son, just tell me what you want."

"Fine. You want to go see some things?"

"If it's that secret warehouse, yeah, I do."

"Then let's go."

"Give me a minute to get my wheelchair unplugged."

Again with the look. "Dad, you don't need it. I promise. We won't even get off the golf cart."

"If you look at me like that again I swear I'll move back to Kalifornia."

"No, you won't, but I'll knock it off anyway. Shall we?"

o

Derek drove the golf cart like he drove his car. Too fast for the corners and over every bump he could find while apologizing the whole time. He took me down to his industrial complex and pulled into one of the warehouses. All the while seeming to be ignoring that we were at DEFCON 1.

Now, all of Derek's buildings were built like ammo bunkers except for the houses. When we pulled in, we were actually driving underground. The building was pretty huge. Everywhere around us were piles and piles of boxed dry goods.

"What's this?"

"The main warehouse. That's pile is your toilet paper."

Derek was pointing at a stack of the big shipping cases of Charmin. There must have been around 10,000 rolls. Yeah right, a good start, just like 750 lawyers on the bottom of the ocean.

“That’s nice, but this ain’t the warehouse I was talking about. I knew that this one was here, just not what was in it.”

“Then which one do you want to see, Dad?”

“The one over there that’s by itself!” God, he was exasperating sometimes.

“That’s not a warehouse.”

“Fine. It’s not a warehouse. I still want to see it!”

“Take it easy, Dad. I’m going there now.”

“You take it easy, junior. I’m too old for you to play games with.”

Derek threw the golf cart in gear again and floored it. “Hang on, Dad.”

“To what? Why aren’t we going outside?”

“Because you can’t get in there that way.”

“Oh? You forget to install doors?”

“No. They don’t open from the outside.”

That was more like it. Now he was getting paranoid. Glad to know that he was still my kid. We drove through the warehouse while he pointed out various commodities to me, like sewing needles and Rice-a-Roni. At the end of the warehouse we ducked into a tunnel that ran downhill.

“You said that the doors don’t open from outside?”

“Yeah. There’s a vault door at the entrance to this tunnel that will hold any BATFE agents that show up until we can get rid of the more alarming stuff down there.”

“Alarming? Like what?”

“Baby, for one. She’s not only functional; she’s aimed at the tunnel entrance. If the ATF shows up unannounced a lot of Hillery’s men are gonna be smeared all over the wall there. Even on low cyclic.”

“So this is the armory?”

“This is the range. The armory is down the hill. Same building, different ends.”

The tunnel ended around a series of S-curves. We emerged right into the sights of Derek's M163. Gun barrels aren't fun to look down even when they aren't loaded.

"Here we are, Dad. Welcome to Sanctuary. This is where we rednecks come to pray."

"What do rednecks pray for?"

"More ammo, less gun laws, and the second rising of the South, of course."

"Anything else?"

"I think some of them pray that their wives won't catch them on Saturday nights."

"Hi, Spence. Welcome, Mr. Ott. What are you down here for today?"

"Some present giving, and some trigger time," said Derek.

"Yessir. Would this be the right present?" The kid that was talking to us held up a wooden case.

"Yep. Thanks, Eli. Happy Father's Day, Dad."

"For me?"

"Yep."

"Thank you. You didn't have to do this."

"Sure I did. Maybe you should open it up."

"Ok." I opened up the case. The brass hinges squeaked just a little. Inside were John Wayne's shotguns. "Jeezus!"

"Close. John. These are the authentic Greener's he used in Big Jake. They cost a lot more than the replicas but you're worth it."

"Do they fire?"

"Yep."

I ran my fingers over the matching shotguns. "I can't take these, kid. They must have cost you 7 figures."

"They did, and you have to take them. No receipt for them, you see, so no returns."

o

Derek's warehouse range was huge. Here underneath the rocky clay was a full firing range 550 yards long. The paper targets had powered tracks, there were nearly a hundred pop-up targets, and the entire range was designed to look like you were outside.

I was wearing 4 guns so why not? I moved the target to the appropriate range for handguns and proceeded to empty all my magazines and/or bullet loops. This was nice, I could relieve tension anytime it built.

o

Wiki tells the story of the 47 Ronin who in the the Genroku Akō Incident avenged the forced seppuku of their master, thus making them Ronin or leaderless samurai. With little embellishment, this true story was popularized in Japanese culture as emblematic of the loyalty, sacrifice, persistence and honor which all good people should preserve in their daily lives. The popularity of the almost mythical tale was only enhanced by rapid modernization during the Meiji era of Japanese history, when many people in Japan longed for a return to their cultural roots. I know of this because I once saw a History Channel program about Samurai that discussed the incident. The graves of the 47 are in Tokyo. Then, there is the story of the 7 Samurai, the basis for the movie *The Magnificent Seven*. The 7 Samurai is fiction, the 47 Ronin, true.

Brave men, these Samurai; by the Grace of God, we would be as brave in the coming days. The nearest targets, assuming an enemy with unlimited nukes, were Little Rock, Springfield and for sure, Whiteman AFB. If the B2s weren't already airborne before they launched on us, I can only assume they were taxiing – maybe without weapons or a full load of fuel; there were many places they could land, refuel and arm. If they were armed, all they would need is tanker aircraft to reach any target in the world. If I were C-JCS, I'd have armed them and fueled them the moment trouble broke out. I'd have had the Minuteman III silos about 2 minutes from launch. Finally, I'd have sent out the SSBNs, if for no other reason than to save the boats and crews.

Peace Dividend my butt. Pine Bluff Arsenal located in Southeast Arkansas, is 35 miles Southeast of Little Rock. They announced in May of '07 that the last of the nerve gas had been destroyed. You know that they made pyrotechnics there, didn't you? As you saw when I learned of the contents of the warehouse, we didn't need any, for now.

The advantage of the M1A3 tanks was that they incorporated the very best features of the free world's best MBTs. That's the difference between Army Procurement and private procurement. As long as Derek was footing the bill, he could work totally outside of the envelope and not exceed the manufacturing capacity existing around the end of the first decade of the 21st century.

In the 24th century, Engineer Scott gave away the formula for transparent aluminum to a 20th century man. The molecule shown on the screen was actually Lexan. However, such a material exists in the 21st century. If you don't believe me, look it up on Wiki. Try:

transparent alumina or Aluminium oxynitride or sapphire. You may know the materials by their common names, Ruby and Sapphire. I never cease to be amazed by Star Trek or Gene Roddenberry.

The only thing better than an M1A rifle is having 2 M1A rifles and you may quote me. Now, if you add to that collection, some M16s for trade, maybe a couple HKs and a couple of Tac-50s, you're getting close. Tie into some of those cowboy guns and you have the world by the tail. When you have Greener's, worth a half million each, you start making plans about who to give the Stoeger to. Which may be important after the missiles fly. Don't let that bimbo get you guns! Seal it in PVC pipe and bury it or sink it in your pond. They won't try to take away your bows and arrows until next year, so you have time to make arrangements.

As far back as May 2007, a friend of a friend got a reading on his dosimeter that was in his car in the parking lot of a ... never mind, you wouldn't believe me, I'm that crackpot from Palmdale, er, Youbetcha, Arkansas who invents M1A3 tanks and buys illegal guns and magazines, right? Just a natural born thief waiting for an opportunity to steal, er, strategically reallocate, everything that not nailed down. Doesn't want normal things like jewelry or TVs, he wants to steal explosives.

The BATFE can come and look anytime they want, I have nothing to hide that's against federal law or requires a tax stamp. Rather you should consider these things as things I have on my shopping list for after TSHTF. If it's as bad as some of us imagine, getting the guns will be the last thing on their little bitty pea sized brains.

Do you remember the Peter Principle? It states: In a hierarchy every employee tends to rise to his level of incompetence. Perfect description of the BATFE. They couldn't do the job when they were the BATF, so they added Explosives. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) is a US federal agency; more specifically a specialized law enforcement and regulatory organization within the US Department of Justice. Its responsibilities include the investigation and prevention of federal offenses involving the unlawful use, manufacture, and possession of firearms and explosives, acts of arson and bombings, and illegal trafficking of alcohol and tobacco products. The ATF also regulates via licensing, the sales, possession, and transportation of firearms, ammunition, and explosives in interstate commerce. I'll give you a clue based on actual experience; they won't get involved in tobacco products, even stolen, unless the value exceeds \$7,000. They're the folks that the bimbo sent to get the guns.

Bimbo:

1. [Slang] A woman regarded as vacuous or as having an exaggerated interest in her sexual appeal.
2. [Slang] A vacuous person: "a male bimbo ... who even has to be tutored ... in the clichés that comprise the basic interview" (George F. Will).

I like this one better:

1. a foolish, stupid, or inept person.
2. a man or fellow, often a disreputable or contemptible one.
3. Disparaging and Offensive. an attractive but stupid young woman, esp. one with loose morals.

Don't really know about her morals, but she isn't young or attractive; stupid, maybe, maybe not. I know that she didn't get caught in that deal up near Flippin (Whitewater). Is smart the same as being clever?

◦

Fast Battle Cruisers: The German's had them too – they called them pocket battleships. We called ours the Alaska class large cruiser and built two, USS Alaska and USS Guam. Two originally being built were converted to Carriers at the onset of WW II. Somebody screwed the pooch when they retired our battleships. We should have up-graded them and built more.

Let me remind you:

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven. – Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3, Verse 1

Time out while I tell you how I knew that. Have you ever heard of the M14 rifle? I rest my case. The Defense Department was TOO CHEAP to upgrade the Abrams and concluded we didn't need battleships, battlecruisers or reliable replacement nuclear war-heads. Although, in truth, you can blame the latter decision on the Democrats in Congress. I wrote McCain over that Immigration bill and explained that I'd never vote for any politician, Republican or not, who supported the bill that came out of that smoke filled room. I also told him, I'd never support someone who wanted to get the guns. Yes, really, late on the evening of May 24, 2007; I really should have kept a copy, but it was one of those letter to the Senator forms on his website.

◦

Paul Harvey called it Page 3:

An NBC report on the US Army's rejection of a new type of body armor has sparked a widespread debate over the safety of US troops in the field.

The NBC investigative report, which aired over the weekend, suggested that Interceptor body armor – which the Army current uses, calling it "the best in the world" – may be inferior to a privately-developed armor called Dragon Skin. Dragon Skin, made of a series of overlapping ceramic disks "like Medieval chainmail" that defend against bullets, has been sought by military personnel and their families in the belief it offers better protection than the Army-issued Interceptor vests, NBC said.

NBC News tracked down the man who helped design Interceptor a decade ago, Jim Magee, a retired Marine colonel:

LISA MYERS: What is the best body armor available today in your view?

JIM MAGEE: Dragon Skin is the best out there, hands down. It's better than the Interceptor. It is state of the art. In some cases, it's two steps ahead of anything I've ever seen.

MYERS: You developed the body armor that the Army is using today.

MAGEE: That's correct.

MYERS: And you say Dragon Skin is better?

MAGEE: Yes. And I think anybody in my industry would say the same thing were they to be perfectly honest about it.

But Brig. Gen. Mark Brown, who oversees the Army's body-armor program, told NBC that the Dragon Skin armor "failed miserably" in Army testing, which NBC says he suggested led to its ban from use by personnel. **But NBC notes that the Army banned soldiers from using Dragon Skin two months before the Army tested the armor.** (See 'Page 2:', in chapter 5.)

The report adds that the CIA has tested and approved the armor for use by its own operatives, and one former Army ballistics expert, Nevin Rupert, says he was fired for supporting the use of Dragon Skin, and believes that the Army is eschewing the armor because "it threatened their program and mission funding."

NBC later posted the results of its own testing, which found Dragon Skin to be superior to the Army's Interceptor vests. In two tests, performed earlier this month by the Beschussamt Mellrichstadt laboratory in Germany, an Interceptor vest was penetrated by gunfire after several shots, while the same number of shots did not penetrate a Dragon Skin vest. A third test of a Dragon Skin vest against a more lethal caliber of bullet - one that the Army does not require its vests to protect against - also showed no penetration of the armor.

The Associated Press writes that, in response to the NBC report, the Army "in a rare move" released the results of its Dragon Skin testing on Monday. In a press conference General Brown said that the armor suffered "catastrophic failures," failing to stop 13 of 48 armor-piercing rounds.

"Zero failures is the correct answer," he said. "One failure is sudden death and you lose the game."

Brown added that the armor failed to endure required temperatures shifts - from minus 20 degrees to 120 above zero - which weakened the adhesive holding the discs together. And he said that the Dragon Skin's heavy weight was also a problem for soldiers who need to carry a lot of gear.

The Dragon Skin, he said, weighs 47.5 pounds, compared to the Army-issued Interceptor armor, which weighs 28 pounds.

The NBC report was also met with some skepticism on military community websites. DefenseTech, a military technology blog run by Military.com, points out that in NBC's video of the armor tests, the Dragon Skin armor is on a flat surface, which maximizes the overlap of the protective disks that make up the armor. When worn, however, the armor would be curved, reducing the disks' protection. DefenseTech also notes that the armor's excessive weight reduces its "operational suitability." A post at the military website ProfessionalSoldier.com, run by and for members of the Special Forces, also criticizes the testing in a lengthy article endorsed by the site.

Stars and Stripes, a daily paper for the US military authorized by the Defense Department, writes that Murray Neal, the founder of Dragon Skin manufacturer Pinnacle Armor, says the Army is lying about the test results.

Murray Neal said eight of the rounds that penetrated the Dragon Skin vests were specifically aimed where there were no ballistic discs.

Of the remaining shots that went through the vests, five needed to be verified by a follow-up test, but the Army failed to do so, Neal said.

As for the Army's contention that the mesh of ceramic discs falls apart after being exposed to extreme temperatures, Neal said, "That's a bold-face lie."

Army spokesman Paul Boyce said Neal has made similar accusations against the Army in the past, but, "the test results speak for themselves."

ABC News affiliate KFSN in Fresno, Calif., reports that Mr. Neal says third-party testing is needed to resolve the issue of which armor, Interceptor or Dragon Skin, is safer. "[The test] won't be conducted by the Army. It won't be conducted by me. That's the whole issue here."

Military.com reports that Brown said the Army has "gotten a flurry of interest" from Capitol Hill since the NBC report was released, and that the Army will be meeting with members of Congress this week to discuss the armor issue.

When Fiction Becomes Fact – Chapter 9

Whatever armor is best, if Congress gets its hands on it, our troops are doomed. Did you figure it out, yet? Where do I stand? I'm a Patriot who has had it up to here with, Congress, the Prez, hell – politicians in general and don't care for reporters (including O'Reilly), lawyers and a whole lot of other people who learned a new language containing only one word, Baaaaa! The NIJ tested Dragon Skin and it passed.

Derek had both kinds, Interceptor and Dragon Skin. He didn't like the Dragon Skin, for whatever reason, probably the weight. How he managed to buy Interceptor is another of those mysteries we may never solve, he probably bought some stock in Point Blank or its parent, DHB Industries, Inc. The only way anyone could reach the Ranch was with artillery, the M1A3 had an effective range of 8,000 meters. However, I must quickly point out that his last MOS was in artillery, so he knew that. Probably the greatest danger lay in people equipped with GPS aimed munitions, like Excalibur. Keep in mind, only OUR military had the Excalibur, fielded in 2007.

o

As originally constructed, the Iowa class had:

9 × 16" (406mm) 50 cal. Mark 7 guns
20 × 5" (127mm) 38 cal. Mark 12 guns
80 × 40mm 56 cal. anti-aircraft guns
49 × 20mm 70 cal. anti-aircraft guns

After conversion:

9 × 16" (406mm) 50 cal. Mark 7 guns
12 × 5" (127 mm) 38 cal. Mark 12 guns
32 × BGM-109 Tomahawk cruise missiles
16 × RGM-84 Harpoon Anti-ship missiles
4 × 20mm 76 cal. Phalanx CIWS

They should have called them the yoyo class, they were mothballed so many times, you never knew where they were. Only one, the USS Iowa isn't a museum. But it's mothballed and unrepaired (the repair parts are stored in turret 2). Another case of the military improving something out of existence. I know, I know, I'm lost in the past. Right, that's why we lost so many capital ships in the Battle of Bengal Bay. In one battle, we lost almost as many military personnel as we lost in Vietnam for direct battle injuries. And, how long did Vietnam last, when compared to the Battle of Bengal Bay? Why does the Navy get it so wrong so often? Oh well, I'm probably thinking of the Tomcat and the Phoenix. The Army is worse, if that's possible.

This time, we were passengers, along for the ride. I passed out CD V-742s until I ran out of them. Derek had more, but only enough for staff and relatives. From the warehouse, we moved on to the cavern to wait for the fallout to die down to an acceptable

level. Mary had gotten everyone else to the cavern and the security staff directed the residents of Flippin plus some from Gassville. This may be an appropriate place to discuss the rules I've used in my stories concerning fallout. I've always said the maximum dose was 104mR per hour. It is, to death. I've also suggested that you should wait until it's below 50mR. Less is more, in this case.

It's a tradeoff, pure and simple. Even at 50mR, you may receive genetic damage or end up with cancer. At our age, it doesn't matter, but for the kids... The tradeoff is between staying in the shelters and ending up crazy vs. risking exposure to radiation. Is there a rush, you may ask? You can't protect what you have from a hole in the ground. Ideally, you have enough parts to convert a Platoon of tanks into a Company of tanks, all M1A3s. Ideally, you have some of that artillery with a range of about 4 times the range of those tanks.

It's even better if you have some of those MLRS equipped with the Army Tactical Missile System (Army TACMS) missiles, which can be fired individually or simultaneously. Rockets have a range beyond 30 kilometers, and the Army M39 TACMS Block IA missile can reach to 300 kilometers.

Am I being hard on the military? Increased funding for Stryker and Future Combat Systems (FCS) came as a result of Army decisions in 2002 to terminate or restructure some 48 systems in the FY '04-'09 Program Objective Memorandum (POM) long-term spending plan. Among the systems terminated were: United Defense's Crusader self-propelled howitzer and the A3 upgrade for the Bradley Fighting vehicle, GD's M1A2 Abrams System Enhancement Program, Lockheed Martin's Army Tactical Missile System Block II and the associated pre-planned product improvement version of Northrop Grumman's Brilliant Anti-armor (BAT) munition, Raytheon's Stinger missile and Improved Target Acquisition System, and Textron's Wide Area Mine.

Army TACMS Block IA is an extended range variant of the Army TACMS Block I missile. The Block IA effort entails integrating an onboard Global Positioning System (GPS) with antenna and software into an inertial navigation system and reducing the Block I payload from 950 M-74 bomblets to approximately 300 M-74 bomblets to achieve the required accuracy and extended range. To compensate for the reduced payload, the accuracy of the missile has been improved with inflight GPS updates. If GPS is rendered inoperable, the Army TACMS Block IA reverts to inertial guidance only and maintains Block I accuracy. The missile is fired from the Improved Position Determining System of the M270 "deep strike" launcher and the M270A1 launcher with the improved fire control system (IFCS) and improved launcher mechanical system (ILMS).

Answer one question and I'll rest my case. "How in the name of God did the Mexican Army end up in Palmdale if our military was doing its job?" Yeah, right; as an author, I've lived to see much of my fiction become fact. It happens because my fiction is based on fact, in many cases. Ask yourself, "How much of Gene Roddenberry's fiction is now fact?"

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It was late in Dubya's term when the truth came out about China. All those pet food deaths? The Chinese were using Chemical Warfare on the world. We were their largest customer and it had the greatest effect here. Right up until he more or less figured it out (I sent him about 20 emails) and the FDA banned the import of all Chinese products intended for consumption or to be included in any consumed manufactured product. I was positive when I read about the FDA banning Chinese toothpaste. He probably didn't read any of my emails, that's why a President has staffers.

Plus this:

A government scientific advisory panel proposed sweeping changes Thursday to reduce the health burden of tobacco, which claims 490,000 American lives a year.

The report from the prestigious Institute of Medicine calls on Congress to allow the Food and Drug Administration to regulate cigarettes as drugs and control the way tobacco is marketed. Authors from the IOM, a panel of independent experts who advise the government on health policy, say they aim "to reduce smoking so substantially that it is no longer a significant public health problem."

The report says only bold action can help, including:

- Requiring all insurers – including the Medicare and Medicaid programs – to cover smoking-cessation programs.
- Licensing retailers that sell cigarettes, just as states issue licenses to sell alcohol.
- Raising cigarette taxes as much as \$2 a pack, an effective way to reduce smoking.
- Banning smoking in all non-residential indoor areas.

Members of both the US Senate and House have introduced pending legislation giving the FDA power to regulate tobacco products.

The report's authors say tobacco is a unique product, because it kills more Americans than AIDS, alcohol, cocaine, heroin, homicides, suicides, car accidents and fires combined. Almost half of the USA's 44.5 million adult smokers will die prematurely of a tobacco-related illness if they don't stop. About 21% of adults now smoke.

Only federal action could meaningfully reduce that rate, says committee chair Richard Bonnie, a law professor at the University of Virginia.

"It's disgraceful that year after year, Congress has bowed to the tobacco lobby and refused to act," Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., a sponsor of the FDA bill, said in a statement. "Hopefully, the IOM's powerful call to action will be the irresistible force that finally compels the Senate and House to act."

Cigarette maker Philip Morris USA has publicly said that it supports Kennedy's bill. R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company has said that the FDA's proposed powers would be overly broad.

What? Dissent in the ranks? Philip Morris is more diversified than R.J. Reynolds.

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BB-67 Montana Class

The five battleships of the Montana class, authorized under the 1940 "Two Ocean Navy" building program and funded in Fiscal Year 1941, were the last of their kind ordered by the US Navy. With an intended standard displacement of 60,500 tons, they were nearly a third larger than the preceding Iowa class, four of which were the final battleships actually completed by the United States. The Montana's were intended to carry twelve 16"/50 guns, three more than the earlier class. Protection against underwater weapons and shellfire was also greatly enhanced. They would have been the only new World War II era US battleships to be adequately armored against guns of the same power as their own. To achieve these advances, the Montana class was designed for a slower maximum speed than the very fast Iowa's and had a beam too wide to pass through the existing Panama Canal locks.

Preliminary design plans prepared for the General Board as part of the process leading to the Montana class (BB-67-71) battleship design. At the time, the Montana class was planned to begin with hull number BB-65, rather than BB-67 as it became after two more Iowa's were ordered as BB-65 and BB-66. None of these plans represent the design finally adopted for the Montana class.

The Battleship Study - BB65 - Scheme 3 - (1940 Studies), dated 6 February 1940, was for a ship of 52,500 tons standard displacement and 64,500 ton trial displacement, with a main battery of twelve 16"/50 guns, a secondary battery of twenty 5"/38 guns and a 130,000 horsepower power plant for a speed of 28 knots. Ship's dimensions are: waterline length 860'; waterline beam 114'; draft 36'. Scale of the original drawing is 1/32" = 1'. Port side 5" gun arrangement is labeled "previous secondary battery arrangement". Starboard side has a "proposed secondary battery arrangement."

The "Battleship Study - BB65 - Scheme 4 - (1940 Studies), dated 14 February 1940, was for a ship of 54,500 tons standard displacement and 64,500 tons trial displacement, with a main battery of twelve 16"/50 guns, a secondary battery of twenty 5"/54 guns and a 150,000 horsepower powerplant for a speed of 28 knots. Ship's dimensions are: waterline length 870'; waterline beam 114'; draft 36'. Scale of the original drawing is 1/32" = 1'.

The "Battleship Study - BB65 - Scheme 8 - (1940 Studies), dated 15 March 1940, was for a ship of 70,000 tons standard displacement and 82,000 ton trial displacement, with a main battery of twelve 16"/50 guns, a secondary battery of twenty 5"/54 guns and a

320,000 horsepower powerplant for a speed of 33 knots. Ship's dimensions are: waterline length 1050'; waterline beam 120'; draft 35'. Scale of the original drawing is 1/32" = 1'.

Completion of the Montana class would have given the late 1940s US Navy a total of seventeen new battleships, a considerable advantage over any other nation, or probable combination of nations. The Montana's also would have been the only American ships to come close to equaling the massive Japanese Yamato. However, World War II's urgent requirements for more aircraft carriers, amphibious and anti-submarine vessels resulted in suspension of the Montana's in May 1942, before any of their keels had been laid. In July 1943, when it was clear that the battleship was no longer the dominant element of sea power, their construction was cancelled.

US Navy battleship construction began with the keel laying of the Maine in 1888 and ended with the suspension of the incomplete Kentucky (BB-66) in 1947. During this almost six-decade-long era, 59 battleships of 23 different basic designs (or "classes") were completed for the Navy. Another twenty battleships and battle cruisers (three more "classes") were begun or planned, but not completed.

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"Do you know who hit us? Do you know how many hits we took? Did we retaliate? What with? Is that bimbo still in charge, or is it the Muslim? God save us all!"

"Now, calm down Sharon, I don't know the answers to any of your questions. With the radio setup we have here, we'll find out soon enough. I have one question for you, 'Do you still think I'm crazy?' I never was, you know, it just seemed like it."

"I never said you were crazy."

"Did you think it?"

"Well..."

"You wear that .380 everywhere except when you go to bed or in the shower, got that?"

"Who would want to live in a world after a GTW?"

"I would, think of the opportunities to get things I've always wanted and never had."

When he was a visible figure working against the rise of Nazism, Einstein had sought help and developed working relationships in both the West and what was to become the Soviet bloc. After World War II, enmity between the former allies became a very serious issue for people with international resumes. To make things worse, during the first days of McCarthyism, Einstein was writing about a single world government; it was at this time that he wrote, "I do not know how the third World War will be fought, but I can tell

you what the they will use in the Fourth – rocks!" (Calaprice, Alice 2005), The new quotable Einstein, Princeton University Press, ISBN 0-691-12075-7, p. 173)

From another website: "If USA won't change its imperialistic behavior (that has put into difficult position even its closest friends), within 20-30 years we will have to go through a WWII. Chances are that USA won't want to let go of its grip on power. And as Einstein once said 'I don't know how the third world war will be fought but I do know that the fourth one will be fought with sticks and stones.'"

World War Three. Also known as "The End of the World."

In *The Mathematical Experience* (Boston: Birkhäuser, 1981), Philip J. Davis and Reuben Hersh wrote:

One began to hear it said that World War I was the chemists' war, World War II was the physicists' war, World War III (may it never come) will be the mathematicians' war. Ignazio Silone said (in the fifties, I think), that

"The next war will be between the Communists and the ex-Communists."

"The New York Intellectuals" was a loosely-defined group of public intellectuals of the 1940's and 50's, associated more or less with *Partisan Review*. The typical New York Intellectual was a disillusioned ex-Communist. (I have to capitalize these words. They're name brands.)

"I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones." – attributed to Albert Einstein.

It's now become popular to regard the Cold War as WWII, and to call the war against terror WWIV. Norman Podhoretz, in the pages of *Commentary*, has been one of the main popularizers.

The Rise of the New World Order by William Frederick, M. Div.

How will the culmination of this plan produce the New World Order with the antichrist as the world ruler? The framework of this plan was given to Albert Pike on January 22, 1870. This plan was kept secret for many years, but was revealed by a former Illuminati, Doc Marquis, in his book *Secrets of the Illuminati*. Marquis tells us that Pike received this plan from a "guiding spirit." In other words, he received this plan for the establishment of the New World Order from Satan or one of his demons. The major components of the plan entailed the fighting of three world wars.

The First World War was designed to overthrow czarist Russia and establish communism. The Second World War was to be started by Britain and Germany and had as its eventual goal the strengthening of Russia into a superpower. As we know from history, both objectives were fulfilled. Officially, some claim Pike's letter is a fake. However

the contents of the letter were revealed to the public just after WWI, and the fact that WWII fulfilled the plan in the letter is proof that it is authentic.

The Iraq War is also a part of this takeover plan and will help shift control of world affairs to the UN and eventually the NWO, as detailed by David Bay of Cutting Edge: Since the Illuminati had first planned for the Iraqi invasion by American troops in 1952 (former Satanist Bill Schnoebelen), we can only conclude that this detailed plan may provide for the gradual political disaster of both Blair and Bush. As we have stated many times before, if Bush is wondrously successful in his invasion of Iraq, with no significant political fallout, the world will see that his defiance of the United Nations – his exercise of National Sovereignty – was clearly the plan of action that needed to have been taken.

At this point, the carefully crafted image of the UN as an indispensable world body will shatter, possibly never to recover again. However, the Illuminati fought World Wars I and II for the express purpose of establishing a world government that one day will possess real teeth and be able to force individual governments to do its bidding. The Illuminati cannot have the UN to shatter, and Bush is no "loose cannon." Therefore, the end result must be that Bush's exercise of National Sovereignty will finally be shown as an unmitigated disaster, while the temperate position of the UN must be shown to be the way in which the world must be governed from this point forward.

The Third World War is supposed to be triggered by war between Judaism and Islam and will eventually spread to the whole world. Listen to what Albert Pike said about WWIII:

The third World War must be fomented by taking advantage of the differences caused by the 'agentur' of the 'Illuminati' between the political Zionists and the leaders of Islamic World. The war must be conducted in such a way that Islam and political Zionism mutually destroy each other. Meanwhile the other nations, once more divided on the issue will be constrained to fight to the point of complete physical, moral, spiritual and economical exhaustion...Then everywhere, the citizens, obliged to defend themselves against the world minority of revolutionaries, will exterminate those destroyers of civilization, and the multitude, disillusioned with Christianity...will receive the true light through the universal manifestation of the pure doctrine of Lucifer, brought finally out in public view.

Another illuminati writer, H.G. Wells, has further detailed that WWIII will start from an event that occurs in Basra. He was given this information from a demonic Guiding Spirit in 1933 in which he wrote about in his book entitled, "The Shape of Things To Come." "...the plan for the 'Modern World-State' (New World Order) would succeed in its third attempt (WWIII) and would come out of something that would occur in Basra, Iraq."

Cutting Edge Ministries has further documented other interesting facts that have been revealed by Illuminati concerning WWIII. WWIII will probably be triggered by the Middle East conflict, involve a nuclear confrontation with North Korea, and the takeover of Taiwan by China. All one has to do is watch the evening news to see how close we are to

seeing part of this occur. Although there are too many details to go into here, what readers should take from this is that Satan has planned three world wars to establish the New World Order. WWII has as its ultimate goal to usher in the New World Order, which will eventually have the antichrist as the head. According to former Illuminati Satanist, Doc Marquis, once World War III begins the Antichrist will arise on the world scene in 13 weeks...

We have examined some aspects of the plan of the Illuminati to take over control of the world and institute the antichrist as the leader. We have also looked at their plans to establish a universal world religion headed by the Pope. It is readily seen how some of their plans will be fulfilled because we can see these plans as events foretold in the Bible. Some of their plans that are not foretold by the Bible may or may not come to pass. God is in ultimate control. How much of the plan God allows to occur is yet to be seen.

I guess that chews it up and spits it out. There is a view there about WW III from most sides. The swords are now plowshares, so to speak. I'll bring it up later. It wasn't time to go shopping, I didn't need to. And, you must realize that there's a conspiracy theorist behind every rock.

Let's discuss Big Jake's Greener shotguns. They were breechloaders, I can tell you that much. Mr. Greener was a firm believer in the concept of muzzleloaders and refused to make any breechloaders. Hence, his son, William Wellington Greener, struck out a line of his own (the W.W. Greener company) and produced his first breechloader in 1864. When William Greener died in 1869, the two companies were amalgamated together as the W.W. Greener Company, and carried on by William Wellington Greener. William Wellington Greener was responsible for several innovations, as described in the sections below, and it was on the strength of his inventions that the company became famous. Under W.W. Greener, the company established offices in Birmingham, London, Hull, Montreal and New York.

To get perspective, "John Wayne is Big Jake McCandles, on the trail on bandits in this action drama that stretches from Texas to Mexico. It's 1909, and the Old West is giving way to modern times. When the outlaw gang led by vicious John Fain (Richard Boone) raids Jake's ranch and kidnaps his 8-year-old grandson, Jake's wife (Maureen O'Hara), whom he hasn't seen in 18 years, sends for her husband to rescue the boy. While the law gives chase in rickety automobiles, Jake saddles up with an Indian scout, a faithful dog, and a box of money. But paying ransom isn't Jake's idea of good old frontier justice."

The ranch house used for the McCandles ranch in this film is the exact same house that is used for the Chisum ranch in "Chisum", a John Wayne film that was made a year earlier. Note the scenery around the ranch. John Wayne had become an American cowboy legend, but his favorite sidekick was less well-known – a leggy chestnut Quarter Horse named Dollor. Wayne liked this movie stunt horse so much – riding him in seven films including True Grit and The Shootist - that purportedly no one could ride him but

Wayne. As for Dollor, he was so fond of Wayne that even after the actor's death, he looked for him whenever he heard the sound of "The Duke's" voice.

You need that information to understand about those Greener shotguns. I couldn't determine if they actually used real Greener's in the movie, but if they did, they'd be worth their weight in gold. The Greener's were coach guns, no doubt 12 bore (gauge). At least worth their weight in gold (They didn't use Greener's in the movie, they were American Gun Company – Crescent F.A. – short barrel shotguns, look it up).

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The history of the American West was written, literally, with firearms. And although this occurred during a surprisingly brief period more than 150 years ago, many guns from this time are well-known today. In fact, thanks to Hollywood, even those with little interest in firearms recognize the Colt Single Action Army revolver and the Winchester lever-action rifle as "The Guns That Won the West."

Lesser known is the coach gun. But, in the overall scheme of things it was certainly as important as those other weapons—possibly more so—when it came to settling the West.

PROTECTION RACKET

The term "coach gun" emerged in 1858 when Wells, Fargo & Co. began regular stage-coach service from Tipton, Mo., to San Francisco, Calif. The route was 2,800 miles long, and passed through some of the most lawless areas of the West. In addition to carrying passengers, Wells Fargo also had contracts for the US Mail, as well as the task of transporting gold shipments to its banking facilities.

To say that the coaches became a tempting target for outlaws is an understatement. In fact, robbing stagecoaches became a cottage industry in some areas, and between 1870 and 1884 Wells Fargo stages were the target of 347 robbery attempts.

Getting the stage and its valuable cargo through was not a job for the fainthearted, and some of the best in the West accepted the challenge. Among those who spent time driving stagecoaches were Wyatt Earp, Wild Bill Hickok, Buffalo Bill Cody and Morgan Earp.

Riding with them was an armed guard toting a coach gun.

This wasn't a specific make or model of firearm. It was a moniker earned through circumstance by a generic class of guns. These were compact, side-by-side double-barreled shotguns featuring barrels in the 12- to 20-in. range to allow easy handling in the cramped driver's box of the stage.

Virtually all featured twin triggers, with one trigger for each barrel. Most were equipped with external hammers, called "rabbit ears," although some hammerless models were

produced. The 12-ga. likely was the most popular, although the 10-ga. and, to a lesser extent, the 16-ga. were widely used.

Glamorous they were not. But they were an ideal tool for the task.

Although repeating rifles held more rounds and had a greater range, only in Hollywood does one score consistent hits on moving targets from the bouncing box of a fleeing stagecoach. The multiple-shot charge from a smoothbore was far more likely to score, and since only hits counted in that situation, shotguns were the choice of savvy stage guards.

There were some repeating shotguns available that could hold more than the two rounds of the double barrel, but their mechanisms were rather delicate and not up to the rigors of stage travel. That made them less than reliable.

The sturdy little double barrels suffered no such ills. They were virtually indestructible, and even if heavily fouled they would fire as long as shells could be rammed into the chambers and the action closed. Should fouling become excessive, a quick wipe on the breech face and chambers with a shirttail would put the gun back into action.

When it came to guarding the stage, the coach gun reigned supreme. In fact, the term "riding shotgun" is still in common use today. But, as effective as the coach gun was, its reign was brief.

By the late 1890s, railroads were carrying the bulk of gold shipments. Stage lines were in decline and provided rather meager pickings for robbers. At the same time, smokeless powder came into use, as did more reliable repeating shotguns, like the 6-shot Winchester Model 97 pump.

COACH GUN REVIVAL

Time and technology began to render the coach gun obsolete. It might have faded completely had it not been for the Single Action Shooting Society (SASS).

Founded in 1985, SASS has almost 60,000 members spread across all 50 states. They compete in action-style firearms matches in which multiple targets are knocked down as quickly as possible. And they do it with Old West firearms while wearing period clothing.

While time and circumstance ended the reign of the coach gun in the late 1890s, SASS rules have made it one of the most desirable shotguns for its competitive events. The same factors that made the compact double barrel the best tool for the job then, do so now. And manufacturers are eager to provide these guns.

The resurgence in popularity, however, isn't restricted to SASS competitors. Once gun makers began producing coach guns for this enthusiast market, other shooters rediscovered the classic shortened double barrel.